

✓ 16 dark colored
plates

hoppers and small

✓ 9 dark colored plates
hoppers

A

PICTURESQUE GUIDE

TO

BATH, BRISTOL HOT-WELLS,

&c. &c.



Approved by C. H. Johnson

VIEWS of the CASTLE ROCK from the Landing Place on the PLATEAU

Painted & Etched by C. H. Johnson

A

PICTURESQUE GUIDE

TO

BATH, BRISTOL HOT-WELLS,

THE RIVER AVON,

AND THE ADJACENT COUNTRY;

ILLUSTRATED WITH A SET OF VIEWS,

TAKEN IN THE SUMMER OF 1792;

BY

MESS. IBBETSON, LAPORTE, AND J. HASSELL;

AND ENGRAVED IN AQUATINTA.

L O N D O N :

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A

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BATH,

&c. &c.

SECTION I.

LEAVING London by that beautiful and elegant outlet from it, Piccadilly, we are tempted out of the high road through Knightsbridge, by the attractions of Hyde Park, a spot that boasts a superiority over most others of the same description, by offering to the spectator, in defiance of all seasons, incessant though varied loveliness. It is the resort of fashion, as the *promenade* of the town; but to fashion, all crowded places are equally acceptable. The contemplative mind will,

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however,

however, gratefully acknowledge the salubrious luxury of such an expanse of verdure and foliage, and will thank, at least, the benevolence of the *rural deities*, who, to counteract the evils of a populous metropolis, extended their dominions and their cares to its termination.

Few of those who delight in this favored spot are, perhaps, aware of the imminent danger they were in, a very few years ago, of losing the privilege of frequenting it, or, at least, the benefit resulting from that privilege. It is held by the crown, under a lease from the Brudenell family, at a rent, according to report, of 3000l. per annum. The lease being nearly expired, the avidity of the London builders would not suffer them to neglect applying for a part of it, particularly the east side, which, in a short time, they would have covered, as they have Marybone; but the lease being renewed between the former contracting parties, the inhabitants of those houses, to which it affords air and a beautiful prospect, have escaped being im-
mured,

mured, and the public may still enjoy their walks and their airings in Hyde Park.

Before we quit it, we must beg leave to suggest to those who have the care of this inclosure, our fears that their attention to convenience will entirely obliterate all the features of nature. If, because a level road is pleasant to the driver, every rise and every hollow is to be converted into a plain ; if, because a strait line is the shortest, the grace of a curve is to be given up ; in a word, if all is to be regular, as seems the present plan of reformation in Hyde Park, we must be content with recollecting, it once was more various and more beautiful.

Quitting Hyde Park, to enter Kensington Garden by the Mount-gate, we turn round to admire the delightful prospect over the low grounds on the banks of the Thames, terminated by the Surry hills ; a view that is, perhaps, seen to more advantage, in crossing the park diagonally from Piccadilly

to

to Bayswater; but wherever it can be caught, it is well worth study.

Of Kensington palace, and the gardens, so many and such full accounts have been given, that nothing on the subject, in the compass of such a work as ours; could be worth offering. Every one who visits either, must regret that Kensington is not at present a royal residence; and perhaps it may be agreeable to some, who stroll in the gardens, to know that the state apartments are very readily shewn, and that they contain remains of magnificence, and a collection of pictures, still worth the trouble of ascending a flight of stairs.

That part of Hammersmith, through which the traveller passes, will afford small temptation to loiter on the way. Mr. Lee's nursery grounds inclose a valuable stock of plants; and many of those derived from our new colony of culprits seem to have found a home with him. His botanical knowledge, and his communicative disposition,

sition, make a lounge amongst his plants particularly agreeable.

The only advantage Hammersmith can boast to a cursory observer, is the Mall on the edge of the river ; and here large deductions are to be made, for an opposite shore affording little better than rushes.

In the vicinity of London, it is much to be regretted by the lovers of picturesque beauty, that the gothic taste, which transformed a garden into an assemblage of monsters, is succeeded by something not less displeasing to the eye of a *connoisseur* ; the necessity of supplying a *deſſert*, has occasioned not only the inclosing a garden with a high wall, but the building a variety of cross-walls in all directions ; and thus, when invited to enjoy the evening air, we find ourselves pent up in small spaces, which admit no idea that is not connected with the palate.

Brentford is a town that seems perpetually under the public ban, whether on account of

of its former proverbially rough pavement, or of Mr. Bayes's fixing on it for the production of two kings, we will not enquire. To counterbalance the one censure, Mr. Ireland will forgive us, if we recollect the anecdote he has jocularly related of, we will suppose, a deceased great personage, who used to say, '*he liked to ride dro' Brentford it was so like Haunowersh!*' Little respected as it is now, it claims a place in modern history, for having been the scene of a conflict between Charles I. and the parliament forces, in which action Patrick Ruthen, Earl of Forth, in Scotland, so distinguished himself, that in memory of his valor he was created Earl of Brentford.

Little occurs to arrest the passengers' attention on this side Cranford; nor has the road much to recommend it, that is not common to all turnpike-roads. About Cranford bridge, a small portion of wood appears; but after passing through the village, the country relapses into an uninteresting sameness.

On

On the right hand is the seat of the Earl of Berkeley, called Cranford Park. The abundance of game here is not equalled by any inclosure within the same distance from London ; and the noble owner purchases this superiority by means so liberal, that no one can envy him the distinction. Lord Berkeley requests of the gentlemen in his neighbourhood to spare the native inhabitants of his park, and repays the forbearance; by complying with every request for game, and frequently by anticipating the wishes of all around him.

Longford is the next village we pass through; the road still level, and continuing so to Colnbrook, a long irregular town, with the river Colne running through it. At the extremity of this town we enter Buckinghamshire.

Transient views of Windsor castle meet the eye, and enliven the road after passing Colnbrook ; a mile and a half beyond which we turn to the left for Windsor.

At

At the foot of the hill on which the castle stands, lies, in modest lowliness, the picturesque village of Datchet, forming a fine contrast with the superb structure which overlooks it. A thousand ideas rise to the mind in meditating on these two disproportionate objects. The terms in which Milton has characterised the sexes, are surely, though otherwise appropriated, not absurdly inapplicable here. The elevated scite and bold features of the august castle, declare it 'for contemplation and for valor formed', while the mild lineaments of humble Datchet bespeak it all 'softness and sweet attractive grace.'

It is to be regretted, that what is most conducive to comfort is not always the most pleasing to the eye. A survey has been made by the officers of government, with a view to replace the decaying wooden bridge at Datchet by a stone one. This certainly is to be wished for by all in its vicinity; but the artist will behold the exchange with a sigh; and while he acknowledges the deference

rence due to public convenience, will still, in his own mind, and for his own purposes, prefer the present tottering structure.

To describe Windsor castle, is but to copy what hundreds have written on the subject, who could avail themselves of advantages denied to so confined a work as ours ; yet to pass by the noblest structure in the kingdom without notice, would argue what no writer or artist would chuse to be suspected of : a few words therefore shall suffice.

This truly majestic building has been, ever since the Norman conquest, a place of the first importance, frequently the residence, and, in more than one instance, the birth-place of our kings. It occupies a space of ground little less than a mile in circumference ; and soaring far above all other situations, it commands extensive prospects into many counties. The round tower is the characteristic feature of the building, and is a perfect finish to the whole. From Datchet bridge a very advantageous, and an

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extremely grand view is obtained of it: the Thames there highly embellishes the scene, and is in excellent harmony with the other objects.

On the staff of the tower a flag is displayed during the residence of his majesty, and is struck whenever he leaves the place; but to any one entering the town of Windsor there is little need of this token—the countenances of the inhabitants instantly inform the stranger. Nothing can be more alive than Windsor when the royal family are there; their departure produces a general gloom, increasing with every day of their absence.

The town of Windsor is much older than the castle. William the conqueror built a palace here, with several lodges in the forest, for the purpose of hunting. Henry the first rebuilt and fortified it; but it owes most to the attachment of Edward the third, who, by his munificence, made good his title to his surname, *of Windsor*. The captive kings of

of France and Scotland were lodged here, as was marshal Belleisle, with a permission, which almost effaces the idea of imprisonment, to go any where within twenty miles of the castle. It fell a prey to the intestine broils during the reign of Charles the first; but, after the restoration, was fitted up with great magnificence.

The terrace is the work of queen Elizabeth; and much as we admire it, on account of its natural advantages, we should think still more highly of it, did we advert to the immense labor its construction demanded; for being on a very precipitate declivity, and requiring an artificial foundation, it was necessary to dig to a great depth, to get a flat equal to the breadth required. It is raised on solid stone work of a great thickness, crossed by walls of stone, to counteract any thrust from the weight of earth within. That this walk is so finished as to be always dry, and that it is not exceeded by any work of the kind in the world, are truths with which every one is familiar.

His

His present majesty has displayed his taste for, and his liberal patronage of the fine arts, by adding a variety of embellishments to the internal decorations of this noble and enchanting place. In addition to the works of Van Dyck, Holbein, and the cartoons of Raffaelle, his majesty has so far honored modern artists, as to introduce a variety of pictures by Mr. West, and a window of stained glass, executed by Mr. Jervais, after a design of Mr. West's. Eldorado-metal sashes have also taken the place of the casements in St. George's chapel, the whole of which has undergone a variety of improvements.

It has been in contemplation to fit up the tomb-house, as it is called, for a chapter-house for the order of the garter; but the design at present sleeps. King James II. did little honor either to this place or himself, by converting it into a chapel for the service of popery. The resentment of his people soon taught him his error. It wants some stamp of royal forgiveness, to clear it from this opprobrium.

Windsor

Windsor little park is situated at the foot of the terrace, and is about three miles and a half in circumference: it is appropriated to the rural pleasures of the royal family; and abounding with hares, is often the scene of sport to his majesty and his suite. There is a path through the centre of this park to Datchet.

The great park occupies a more considerable space, being somewhat above thirteen miles round. Many parts of it are beautifully diversified with wood. The sylvan scenes with which it abounds, are frequently picturesque, and sometimes grand, and the foliage is in general very luxuriant.

To the south is a spacious piece of water, over which is a stone bridge, designed by T. Sandby, Esq. R.A.

It is impossible, for any one at all acquainted with that sentiment which gives value to what our poets have recorded, to quit Windsor park without a tribute of reverence to

Herne's

Herne's oak. Little now remains of it, but those ferocious features, that iron countenance which braving the attacks of “ the pitiless storm,” and the ravages of time, have renounced every appendage not necessary to existence, and seem to have purchased the right of still retaining a place, by a full abridgment of their influence ; yet even now 'tis grand, and must ever, while even the stump remains, be venerable.—That our immortal poet has mentioned it, is its passport to immortality: when surveying it, we forget the distant prospect of the castle, and the fine accompaniment of wood, and lose ourselves in the idea of Falstaff, and his peculiar humor.

Three miles from Windsor, and in the great park, stands the ranger's house, the summer residence of the late duke of Cumberland.

The forest is abundantly stocked with deer, and all sorts of game. Roads are cut through it in every direction; and as its circuit is computed at not less than between

fifty and sixty miles, it affords an excellent range for field sports. It is joined by Cranbourne chace and Bagshot heath, which include extensive tracts of country.

To return to the town of Windsor. The principal street is decorated with good houses, and a handsome town-hall, built in the time of Charles II. The present town arose out of the ruins of old Windsor, which decayed in proportion as the new one advanced. The corporation consists of a mayor, high steward and deputy, a town clerk, two bailiffs, and twenty-eight burgesses: they hold the manor of Windsor by a grant from James I. and pay a quit-rent of three pounds odd shillings yearly to the crown.

The parish church is a spacious ancient edifice in the high street, in which is also the guild-hall or town-house, a neat building erected in 1688, supported and adorned with columns and arches of Portland stone. At the north end of it, in a niche, is a statue

of

of queen Anne. Windsor returns two members to parliament, and has a weekly market well supplied with provisions of all kinds.

Leaving the town, and crossing by the bridge at the foot of it, we enter Eton, made famous by its college founded by Henry VI. and esteemed one of the best seminaries of education in England. The buildings, excepting the great school-room, are all ancient; the chapel is gothic, and a most beautiful specimen of that style of architecture. Though in the neighbourhood of grand objects, and though the traveller generally visits it with a mind overawed, as it were, by the majestic charms of Windsor, this edifice, whether examined as to its proportions, or taken only as a feature of the landscape, commands our attention and admiration.

Mr. Ireland has justly censured the modern introduction of the doric order into the scene; and we cannot but join his wishes to
see

see this incongruity removed. Mr. Bacon has decorated the east end with a whole length marble statue of the pious founder.

The genuine lover of poetry, and the admirer of those accomplishments that denominated Gray an elegant scholar, will, with inquisitive eye, seek the spire of Stoke Poges church, which lies about four miles from Eton.

Passing through Eton we come to Slough, and have now again entered on the high road from London to Bath.

Next beyond Slough is Salt-hill, a situation, from the left of which Windsor castle makes a most magnificent appearance; but the want of accompaniment in the foreground, renders it less attractive than from the river at Datchet.

Four miles farther we reach Maidenhead bridge. On the right, the village of Taplow presents itself: the abrupt knolls and hang-

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ing woods of Clifden and Taplow near it, are highly picturesque, and much to be preferred to the view on the other side of the bridge.

Maidenhead is a corporation, under the government of a high steward, a mayor or steward, and ten aldermen, and has a weekly market. The town is a great thoroughfare, with many good inns, which are much benefited by the frequent excursions made hither by parties for the purpose of fishing. Maidenhead lies in two parishes, one part is in Bray, famous for its accommodating vicar, the other in Cookham. The present stone bridge was erected after a design of sir Robert Taylor's, and is a very handsome structure, consisting of seven large arches, with the addition of three smaller ones of brick at each end. It unites Buckinghamshire to Berkshire.

About four miles beyond the town of Maidenhead, lies the thicket, the views from which are in general flat and insipid.

To

To the natural beauties of the country hereabouts, taste and magnificence have added all their artificial charms. The neighbourhood abounds with elegant seats, amongst which those of the earl of Inchiquin, Mrs. Philips, Mr. Ximenes, and Mrs. Parrot, are the most distinguished.

Hare-hatch is the next village we meet with. It contains several reputable modern houses. After passing this spot, the country becomes more open, but with little claim to notice.

On the right hand is Wargrave, a place raised from rural obscurity into polite celebrity, by the late earl of Barrymore's newly erected theatre, and his taste for splendid amusements. Opposite Wargrave lies the village of Twyford, important only as a thoroughfare. Beyond Twyford, on the left, a new road is cut to Windsor. The country now affords an incessant scene of beauty till we arrive at

Reading,

Reading, the metropolis of Berkshire, pleasantly situated on the river Kennet, near its confluence with the Thames. It is the largest, and in every respect the best town in the county, has three parish churches, and a very good market. The streets are handsome, and remains of the venerable abbey are still to be seen. The gate-house is kept in good repair, but is supposed to have undergone a variety of alterations. The parliament of England has sometimes been held in this abbey: and it was the place of sepulture to many noble, and some royal persons, amongst others Henry I. who had built a castle here, but it was demolished by Henry II. for affording refuge to Stephen's party; and not even the scite of it can now be traced, unless, as Mr. Ireland seems inclined to think, it is to be found amongst the ruins, near the precincts of the abbey.

During the civil commotions in the reign of Charles I. the town made an obstinate defence against the parliament forces, headed by the earl of Essex. It is governed by a corporation,

corporation, consisting of a mayor, twelve burgesses, and other officers, and sends two members to parliament.

A very stately mansion was built in the reign of George I. by the then earl of Cadogan, at Caversham, nearly opposite to Reading, and situated on an eminence, commanding a very extensive view. It has been since much altered and contracted.

Two miles beyond Reading is the seat of Edward Bower, esq. The country now becomes woody, and highly picturesque ; the road is frequently entirely shaded by high oaks and ash. Where the eye can penetrate, the river presents itself winding through the adjacent vale.

We now proceed across Clacket green, and reach the village of Theal, situated at the foot of an inconsiderable hill, and with a large quantity of wood adjoining to it. On the left, the country is open for many miles;

miles ; but the distance is terminated by a long range of well-planted hills. On the right, the road is sheltered by gentle eminences the greatest part of the way to

Woolhampton, a pleasant village, at a small distance from which is the seat of Mrs. Crewe ; a little farther, on the right hand, the country assumes a countenance of stronger features ; but the vale on the left has few attractions : even in the height of summer it has a gloomy and insipid appearance, and is divested of every claim to the notice of an artist.

Thatcham is a neat, but inconsiderable town, near which is Dunstead Park, late in the possession of Sir Archer Crofts, deceased.

Beyond Thatcham the country is still tame and uninteresting, and continues so till we reach Newbury, situated at an equal distance from London to Bath.

Newbury

Newbury is a very handsome and populous town, on the Kennet, governed by a corporation, consisting of a mayor, high-steward, aldermen, and burgesses. It had once an extensive manufactory of woollen cloths, which has of late years considerably diminished.

In this town began the reformation, and here lived the famous John Winchcomb, commonly called Jack of Newbury; he flourished in the time of Henry VIII. and was the most considerable clothier in England, employing an hundred looms. He marched at the head of an hundred of his own men, all dressed in an uniform, and maintained at his own charge, to the battle of Flodden-field: he rebuilt part of Newbury church, and the whole tower of it. A lord Bolingbroke married the heiress of one of his descendants.

Newbury, as well as Reading, has been the scene of domestic feud. It was in a field very near it that Charles I. and the parliament

ment army fought two battles, in two succeeding years ; and it was here that the earl of Essex was out-generalled by prince Rupert, who permitted his army to pass, and then fell on the rear.

The village of Speen, now called Speenham land, is a part of Newbury, and arose out of the ruins of an old town, called Spine, which occasioned the calling the new town Newborough, or bury.

On the right of the road, beyond Newbury, stands Donnington castle, and beneath it is Donnington grove, the residence of Mr. Brummel. The river Lambourn passes through the grounds, which are laid out with great taste, and decorated with a very elegant wooden bridge.

Donnington castle is situated on the summit of a rocky and abrupt wooded eminence, and commands a fine view of the vale, the town of Newbury, and the hills of Hampshire.

This

This castle was once the residence of the poet Chaucer, from whom it descended, in lineal succession, till the reign of Henry VII. Since that period it has had a variety of possessors. The poet's oak has long since given way to time. Twenty years ago persons were living who remembered it. The present resident at Donnington castle is Mr. Hartley.

The river Kennet, on the left, continues its seemingly unimportant course through the vale, which is still deficient in characteristic variety ; but the distance is pleasantly diversified.

Hungerford is a small town, on the banks of the Kennet, and at the foot of a hill. It is governed by a constable, chosen annually, who is, for the time being, lord of the manor. This place is celebrated for the finest trout in England.

We enter Wiltshire at a small village, called Frogsfield, and next meet with Saver-
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nake forest, extending for a considerable length of way by the road-side, the property of the earl of Aylesbury, who has a seat, called Tottenham park, contiguous to it. The forest is about twelve miles in circumference, plentifully stocked with deer, pheasants, hares, &c. and is the only ground of that denomination in England, possessed by a subject. A number of avenues are cut through it, which meet in a spacious opening near the centre.

The house is a stately edifice, erected on the spot, where stood, in the time of Charles I. a palace, belonging to the marquis of Hertford, afterwards duke of Somerset, from whom the earl is descended. The present structure was designed by lord Burlington.

A steep descent of two miles, when we had cleared Savernake forest, brought us to the town of

Marlborough, which we enter by a bridge over the Kennet. It is a borough by prescription,

scription, but has been incorporated, and is governed by a mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, with other officers. This town is rendered famous by having been once the seat of parliament. It is at present well built ; having been destroyed by fire in the year 1728.

The inns at Marlborough are celebrated ; and one of them having been the family seat of the duke of Somerset, has for some years enjoyed a superiority over most others in the kingdom. The town has little business, but as a thoroughfare. It sends two members to parliament, has a weekly market, and gives the title of duke to the noble family of Spenser.

The face of the country now perceptibly alters, and the road leads over a spacious plain, at the foot of Marlborough Downs. On the left, the river Kennet winds, in a serpentine course, for a considerable distance within view.

Five miles beyond Marlborough, and its downs, stands the village of Abury, near which are some huge stones, resembling Stonehenge, called by the country people the *Grey Wethers*, from their resemblance, when seen at a distance, to sheep feeding. Dr. Stukeley supposes them to be the remains of a Druid's temple, and of still greater antiquity than Stonehenge.

There is a walk, about a mile in length, from Abury to West Kennet, which was once marked out with large stones on each side ; one range yet remains nearly perfect, but the other has been broken down, and carried away by the inhabitants of the villages, for the purpose of building.

In a field near West Kennet, are three immense large stones, which stand upright, and are called by the villagers, the Devil's Quoits. Dr. Stukeley conjectures them to have been British deities.

Large

Large flights of white-winged rooks were frequently in sight as we traversed the downs; and the land was almost covered by the numerous flocks of sheep fed here, for whose convenience wells are sunk by the road-side. On the left, the downs open and present the view of a small village, surrounded with wood; the spire of its church breaks the line to great advantage; and beyond it to the westward, Salisbury plain appears as level as a bowling-green.

Passing through Beckington, and by Wanf-ditch, we enter the Devizes, the last town in Wiltshire. This road is preferable to that through Calne and Chippenham, which is somewhat shorter, but not in such good condition.

The Devizes is a pleasant clean town, situated on a gentle eminence, which itself lies in a bottom. It is a place of great antiquity and considerable extent; the chief part of the town lies in two parallel streets, the houses in which are mostly of timber.

The

The name of the place is conjectured to be a corruption of the latin *divisa*, as the town was formerly divided between the king and the bishop of Salisbury; but at present the inhabitants boast themselves tenants to the king. Their government consists of a mayor, a recorder, eleven masters, and thirty-six common council-men. They have a very excellent weekly market, and return two members to parliament.

The castle was a Roman work, and, assisted by the natural advantages of its situation, and the improvements of one of the bishops of Salisbury, obtained the character of impregnable. It is now in the most dilapidated state imaginable; the ditch is still to be traced by a road the inhabitants have made almost round the tower.

Here are three churches: the choir of St. Mary's, and the choir and steeple of St. John's are very ancient.

In the green, near this town, it was that Cadby, the gardener, about the year 1714, dug up his Roman antiquities, which were afterwards shewn about the kingdom, and some of them purchased by collectors; they were found in a cavity inclosed with Roman bricks, and consisted of statues of several deities of the ancients.

The Devizes affords an appearance of industry we had not met with in some miles; its situation is well adapted to its chief trade, the manufacture of woollen cloths, as it is contiguous to all the principal wool fairs in the west of England. The water of the river Avon, which runs through the adjacent vale, is reckoned particularly favorable to the purposes of dying colors, and for fulling and dressing cloth. Another important branch of trade here is malt. The greatest defect in the town seems to be an insufficiency of water for the private use of the inhabitants.

Quitting the Devizes, we enter Somersetshire. A gradual descent of a few miles brings us again between hedge-rows, and a

view

view of Chippenham presents itself on the right. Chippenham lies considerably lower than the Devizes, and from this point of sight the valley has a peculiarly luxuriant appearance. On the left, the plains of Salisbury stretch to the south-east towards Warminster, where they break off suddenly, and totally disappear.

Melksham affords little subject of remark, except as being the first post-town in this road to London from Bath. The river Avon passes through it in a large sheet of water, and crosses the wood at the western extremity of the town.

Three miles beyond Melksham, the country again becomes open on the right; while on the left, for a considerable distance, the hedge-rows assume the appearance of a wood. On the other side, the hills to the north of Chippenham join those of Lansdown; the valley between those hills and the Melksham road is variegated with detached coppices and corn-fields.

We

We were now warned of our approach to Bath, by overtaking frequent droves of asses and mules laden with coals. On the common, eight miles on this side of the city, we passed a number of those laborious animals: after a hard day's work they are turned loose to graze, and sleep, during the night, with their panniers on their backs: at day-break they are collected by their owners, and driven away to undergo their diurnal drudgery. During the day they are never fed, unless they pick up the scanty blade of grass round their places of lading, whilst they are waiting for their turn to receive the accustomed burden, or while their drivers are at their own meals: yet, with all this fatigue and hardship, they generally appear in tolerable plight.

For the next five miles, the road presented nothing remarkable; on the left a wood now and then closed up the scene, while the opposite side, at intervals, opened to the valley beneath us.

Quarries of free-stone were frequently in sight, and by the road side, peopled with a multitude of sawyers, &c. preparing the stone for immediate use. These figures would give a much more picturesque and pleasing character to the scenery, were it not that the species of their labour throws one indistinguishing tint over their figures, and a melancholy ghastliness over their countenances.

Immense large masses of stone are carried down the steep hills round Bath, by a curious machine invented by the late ingenious Mr. Allen of Prior-park, near this city. This machine is a four-wheel'd carriage, the wheels of which are broad and low, made of cast iron, with a groove in the perimeter, which serves to confine their course to the pieces of wood, on which they smoothly move down the hills without the help of horses, and carrying four or five tons weight of stone at a time, the motion being regulated by a friction lever, which bears more or less on the hinder wheels as occasion requires.

View on the 9 Ann, looking towards the, benn, sea.



The facility with which this stone may be wrought, has rendered it of common use throughout England; it is said to harden by exposure to the air.

Gaining the summit of the hill, we have an extensive view of Bath: its appearance is unlike that of any other town or city in England. In beauty and elegance it far exceeds any view of London. The river Avon glides along its fertile vale till it reaches the city, where the buildings obscure it from the sight. From this spot the mountains of Monmouthshire, particularly those about Chepstow, Woolaston Chace, and Piercefield, are distinctly to be seen.

Viewed under the influence of a meridian sun, and through the medium of an unclouded atmosphere, Bath presents to the sight, and the imagination, every thing that is united with the idea of perfect beauty; and so strong is the impression it makes on the mind of almost all people at first sight, that the prepossession is converted into opinion,
and

and when enveloped in those exhalations which arise from its salubrious springs, it is still called to mind in all its loveliness and attractions.



Bath from the southern side of the Valley.

SECTION II.

IN the account we propose to give of BATH, the candid reader will hardly look for originality of intelligence. A judicious compilation, corrected and enlarged by an ocular comparison, is all we pretend to offer; and if we can, in our few pages, collect that general information which may gratify the curiosity of the passing traveller, or excite that of a lettered mind, we have accomplished our end. We will consider Bath under these distinct heads :

SITUATION.

SOIL.

WATERS.

HISTORY.

ANTIQUITIES.

G

PUBLIC

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

PRESENT STATE OF THE CITY:

PROJECTED IMPROVEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS, &c. &c.

SITUATION. Mr. Wood, in his description of Bath, gives the following account of its situation :

‘ Bath, considered in its middle state as a single group of building, encompassed with a stone wall, and that surrounded first with towns, and then with villages, each having a proper berton [space of farming land] about it, for raising necessaries for the immediate subsistence of its inhabitants, is situated in the midst of a rich tract of land, spreading itself into three different counties, and extending at least fifty miles in length, by twenty miles in breadth.

‘ This great region of country appears low in respect to the lands about it ; but, nevertheless, its surface is vastly irregular, and composed of nothing but hills and vales, naturally

turally abounding with rivers, as well as rich meadow and pasture grounds. It is bounded on one side by the open and extensive plains of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, and on the other by the second river of England, the river Severn, increased into a sea upon its uniting with the river Wye, within sight from the summit of one of the hills of Bath, and within the distance of about fifteen miles of its hot springs.

‘ The city, thus situated, makes the north-east corner of the county of Somerset ; and geographers place the central part of it in the latitude of fifty-one degrees twenty minutes north, and in the longitude of two degrees thirty-two minutes west from London.

‘ The surface of the land within the ancient limits of *Bathforum* [now one of the hundreds of Somersetshire], is divided into great variety of vales and hills ; and the buildings now [1765] constituting the body of the city that contained that forum, stand upon an isthmus of declining ground at the foot

foot of the south-east corner of one of the chief hills, commanding, at the same time, the principal and most pleasant vale of the whole hundred, for more than two miles to the north-east, with the Avon (a common name, in the British tongue, to all rivers) winding through it.

‘ This river forms the outline of a parabolical figure, about the south-eastern part of the buildings in the body of the city, as well as the berton belonging to them ; and by that curving line of the Avon, a man would imagine that the cold waters of the river were destined by Divine Providence to pay homage to the hot mineral fountains as they glide by them ; for, in the central part of the body of the city, the hot springs boil up.’

The author of ‘ A Description of England and Wales’ remarks, that ‘ though the hills about Bath form a most beautiful prospect, they are of little advantage to their possessors, being neither fertile in herbage nor timber, but in general consist of rocks, which often lie

lie near, or quite up to the surface : they are in a manner covered with fern and furze, and the few trees scattered upon them do not flourish like those in a better soil.' This may be, and is, in some measure, very true, though art has lately nearly covered this defect of nature ; but when we consider, that to the temper of the soil, Bath owes its character, and that, in spite of this disadvantage, the *coup-d'œil* is by every one acknowledged peculiarly charming, nothing farther can be proved from it, than that nature has various colors and forms in which she decorates landscapes.

SOIL.—‘ There is some reason,’ says the last mentioned writer, ‘ to believe that these hills abound with iron, from the redness of the earth and stones, which, in many places, are covered with that ore, and from the ochre found in the cracks of the rocks. The valleys, however, being fruitful, and having in many places a deep soil, make amends for the barrenness of the hills, and are chiefly employed in pasture.’

The

The general soil, in and about Bath, is said to be hard clay, and marle, intermixed with veins of marcasite and coral, strata of horizontal rock, and beds of gravel.

WATERS.—There are in this city several public baths, besides the private baths built by the late duke of Kingston. The first in notice is *the King's bath*, which is by much the largest, and accommodated with several separate dressing-rooms. Both sexes bathe in dresses. The principal spring rises near the centre, and is covered over with a large leaden reservoir, to restrain its rapidity, and to distribute the water more equally to the different parts of the bath, as well as to receive the pipes of the various pumps which supply the water for drinking. Every three or four years, this reservoir is opened for the purpose of cleansing it of a sandy sediment that collects, and would choke up the communication with the pipes that serve the drinking-room. This sand is extremely fine, of a light grey color, and not more ponderous than common sand.

The

The dimensions of the King's bath, which is on the south-west side of the abbey church-yard, are sixty-five feet ten inches, by forty feet ten inches, and it will contain three hundred and forty-six tons, two hogsheads, and thirty-six gallons of water. In the centre of this bath is erected an elegant stone building, with recesses and seats for the company. It is covered in, and supported by a colonnade of the Doric order. The bath is inclosed by a stone parapet erected in the last century. The sides of the wall near the bottom are full of recesses.

In the adjoining room are pumps for applying the water to any particular part of the body diseased: these are called *dry pumps*, a term which, it must be confessed, needs a little explanation to render it intelligible to those who have never visited this city.

The methods by which the Bath waters are applied, exclusive of drinking, are bathing and pumping, and sometimes both united. Those whose complaints require both, stand in the bath while the water is thrown over

over the head, or other part particularly affected, by means of a pump ; by which method it is thought the water penetrates deeper than by the absorption or immersion alone ; but such as cannot bear the heat of the bath, may have the water pumped upon the diseased part, without going into the bath : and these pumps, in contradistinction to those placed in the bath, are called *dry-pumps*.

On the south wall of this bath is a statue of King Bladud, with a date affixed to it, 1699, and an inscription on copper, as follows :

BLADUD,
 Son of Lud Hudibras,
 Eighth King of the Britons from Brute,
 A great philosopher and mathematician,
 Bred at Athens,
 And recorded the first discoverer and founder
 of these baths,
 Eight hundred and sixty-three years before
 Christ,
 That is,
 Two thousand five hundred and sixty-two years
 To the present year
 One thousand six hundred and ninety-nine.

The mention of this inscription leads us to interrupt the enumeration of the baths, and here to notice the popular tradition respecting the discovery of the waters; a story so well known, so variously related, and so little supported by historical evidence, that we shall only give as much of it as is necessary to understanding the connection between this learned prince and the Bath waters.

Bladud, returning from Athens, to which place he had been for the study of the liberal arts and sciences, after eleven years' residence, contracted a leprous disease. From the close confinement to which the disease subjected those afflicted with it, he contrived to effect his escape, and, wandering in the disguise of a peasant, on his arrival at Swainswick, three miles from Bath, he hired himself there as a shepherd: in this service he had often the care of pigs, which he drove for food to different places. Having one day observed that they left him suddenly, and ran all together with precipitation, as if to some determined spot, he followed them closely

till they reached the place whence the hot springs now issue: he saw them plunge themselves into the mud that then marked the salubrious spot, where they wallowed a considerable time. It was now that he perceived a steam to arise from the mud they had disturbed, and finding it of an agreeable warmth, he from this time continued daily to bring them to it. They repeated the same exercise, and, in a short time, he observed, that they were free from a sort of mange their bodies had been covered with; it died away, and the hair grew again.

Induced by these circumstances, he tried the experiment on himself, and soon becoming perfectly sound, he returned to his father's court, and, in commemoration of this event, immediately converted these pools into baths.

The Queen's bath is behind the King's, and is supplied with water from the same spring. This bath, Mr. Collinson informs us, had its name from Anne, the queen of James I. who,

who, being alarmed by a flame or vapor, which rose up by her side when she was bathing in the King's bath, could not be prevailed upon to use that cistern any more, but removed to the adjoining one, out of the way of the spring which caused the terrifying phenomenon. After this event, the corporation erected a cross in the centre of this bath, in honor of the queen, on the top of which was the crown of England on a globe, with this inscription, "Annæ Reginæ sacrum." It is a square of twenty-five feet. Both these baths are twelve feet from the surface of the ground.

This bath, and the king's, have been lately converted into private baths. *The New baths*, with dry-pump rooms, and various other conveniences, have been added, under the inspection of Mr. Baldwin, the city architect, to whom Bath is indebted for much elegance. The simplicity and correctness of taste shewn in all the public works he has conducted, are equally admirable.

The

The Cross bath, situated on the west side of Stall-street, is of a triangular form, and takes its name from a cross erected in it by the earl of Melfort, secretary of state to James II. in memory of the effect it produced on the constitution of the queen by bathing. Mr. Baldwin has added to this a neat pump-room, &c. The cross has been taken down ever since the year 1783. An engraving is given of it in Mr. Collinson's History of Somersetshire.

The baths, known by the name of *the duke of Kingston's*, or the *abbey baths*, lie between Abbey-street and Church-street, and are very convenient and elegant.

At a small distance from *the Cross bath* is one supereminently distinguished by the name of *the Hot bath*, as being reputed much hotter than the others ; but experiments by the mercurial thermometer have proved that this difference is not great. Mr. Collinson gives us the heat of the Bath waters, taken by the degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer ; King's bath

bath 116, Hot bath 117, Cross bath 111: but no observations made on the baths, as to their degree of heat, will apply to the state in which the waters reach the pumps.

Dr. Falconer, in his essay, says, that in the state in which they are drank, they are as follows: King's bath 116, Hot bath 116, Cross bath 112. 'I once,' says he, 'found the King's bath 118, so that I suppose the general heat at which they are taken, scarcely exceeds 116 degrees.'

Independent of all these baths, there is one for the use of poor invalids, annexed to the infirmary.

On the north side of the King's bath stands *the Pump-room*, which was built in 1704, enlarged in 1751, adorned with a portico in 1786, and with a frontispiece in 1791. In it is a marble statue of Richard Nash, esq. of *ceremonial* memory, executed at the expence of the corporation by the late Mr. Prince Hoare.

Hoare. The clock was a present from Mr. Tompion.

Bath water seen unmixed, and in a small quantity, appears clear and transparent; but in the bath it assumes a marine hue. The smell is not agreeable, especially from *the Hot bath*. Those who have written on the subject observe, that, ' when carried to a distance from Bath, it will precipitate silver out of spirit of nitre into a hardish curd. The King's bath and *Hot bath* will turn the solution of silver white, with a blueish cast, which becomes gradually more dusk-colored, and then deposits a dark-grey sediment. The solution of vitriol of iron, mixed with this water, turns to a pearl color, that is with the King's and *Hot bath*, and both will be covered with a thin variegated pellicle. With oil of vitriol, and other acids, the Bath waters will excite some intestine motion, and greatly blunt the acidity. If one part of boiling milk be mixed with two parts of Bath water, a thin whey and curd will appear,

pear, if the water be just taken up. A drachm of syrup of violets will tinge with grass green an ounce of *the King's bath* water, as well as of *the Hot bath*, in twenty-four hours' time.

‘ Some experiments shew that there is a vitriolic principle in the Bath water ; for, if it be taken fresh from the pump, in clear frosty weather, galls will tinge it of a purple color ; but, when cold, they scarce make any alteration. It is generally thought to be owing to the ferruginous principle of Bath water, that it makes better and blacker ink than common water. The sand of the baths, exposed to the air for some time, will become vitriolic, and make ink with infusion of galls. That there is an ochre in this water, appears from the yellow color of the stones at the bottom of the bath, and from the yellow matter, like thin cream, floating on the surface of the water in winter.

‘ From these, and other experiments, it is concluded, that there is a mixture of calcareous

reous substance with the ochre ; and the mud is found to consist of a blueish clay, with some testaceous particles ; used as a catalplasm, it has somewhat of the smell of sulphur, and, when rubbed on silver, it changes it black. The sand, thrown on a red-hot iron, emits a blue flame with a sulphureous smell, and, being exposed to the air, becomes vitriolic, as before observed.

‘ A gallon of the *Queen’s bath* water will yield one hundred and fifty-five grains of sediment, the *Hot bath* one hundred and thirty-nine, and the *Cross bath* one hundred and thirty. The quantity of calcareous and argillaceous substance is double to that of the saline—the quantity of salt in each gallon scarce exceeds forty-three grains ; and the rest of the matter is a grit, with a blue sulphureous earth or marle. The gross remainder emits a strong sulphureous smell, with a blue flame, upon calcination ; and by this operation a fourth part of the weight is lost by burning away. The result of all the observations of different physicians plainly shews, that

that the minerals in Bath water consist of a calcareous and marly earth and ochre, a marine and sea salt, a little calcareous nitre and vitriol, a little bitumen, and a very small quantity of sulphur, which last can be made to appear no otherwise than by consequences.

This is the analytical account of the Bath waters, given by the author of 'A Description of England and Wales.' Mr. Collinson, from later experiments, gives, as their component parts, a small portion of common salt, a larger proportion of selenites, a portion of fixible air, and some sulphureous gas or inflammable air, together with a slight chalybeate impregnation. These, he observes, are all that chemistry has as yet discovered; but, from the inadequacy of these impregnations to the effects produced, it is probable that some latent cause is concerned, of too subtile a nature to be subjected to such analysis, or perhaps to be the object of our senses, or even of our comprehension.

The diseases to which these salubrious waters are applicable, are obstructions of the viscera, the palsy, gout and rheumatism, the colic and jaundice, white swellings, the leprosy, hysterical and hypocondriac complaints, spasmodic diseases, affections of the head and nerves ; and, in almost all cases where a powerful stimulus is wanting, or which arise from relaxation, they are serviceable, provided the patient be free from fever, cough, and asthmatic oppression. Any relief that nature herself has found by suppuration, &c. is inimical to the use of the Bath water. A tendency to mania, and a plethoric habit, render them dangerous ; and, in all cases, a previous preparation of the constitution, and a strict regimen, must be attended to.

It is singular, but strictly true, that persons have received great benefit from drinking the waters at Bath, who, on resorting to them, as they are imported into London, have found them so altered by the mere circumstance of carriage, as totally to disagree with the

the stomach ; so that no one ought to despair of regaining health, till the fair experiment of a journey to Bath has been tried.

In local diseases, the pump is the mode of applying the water. It is used daily, and from fifty to two hundred strokes are received. Where the disorder affects the whole frame, or an inaccessible part, the bath is resorted to twice or thrice a week ; and sometimes, as has been said, the use of the pump is added to it. Patients bathe in the public baths in a morning, and remain in the water from ten to thirty minutes. Should the degree of heat of the public baths not suit the constitution, at the private baths it may be accommodated to it. *The Cross bath* is generally recommended, both for those who bathe, and those who drink the water, to begin with.

The quantity of water to be drank is regulated by medical opinion, which should always be sought at Bath itself, none being so well acquainted with that point as the physicians

physicians of the place. From half a pint to two pints is given daily: two thirds of the quantity are generally taken before breakfast, the other part at noon.

In the vicinity of Bath there are many other springs of mineral water, various in their properties and uses. These are cold, yet very often break out near the hot springs. One of these, called *Muddle brook*, rises at Lansdown, and, at its source, bears the name of *St. Winifred's well*. About half a mile to the west of this spring, is another, called *Lime-kiln spa*, from its situation. At the east end of Lansdown is a spring, known by the name of *Carn well*, and in great estimation as a mineral. *Bath Ford spa* rises in the parish of Bath Ford, about three miles from the hot springs. *Frog's well* is situated in the middle of the village of Box; and at Shockerwick is a well, formerly known by the name of *St. Anthony's well*. The east end of Blakeleigh abounds with mineral springs; but the best known in that neighbourhood is *Lyncomb spa*, which rises in a village

lage of that name. *Middle hill spa* is in the village of Box. It is the property of Mr. West, a baker, who accidentally discovered its virtues. He had a little boy, who was terribly afflicted with a scorbutic humour, and who, by frequently playing with the water, and dabbling in it, was soon restored to health. Mr. West communicated this circumstance to some of the faculty at Bath. The water was analysed, and found to possess all the properties of the Cheltenham water, with others similar to that of Harrogate.

HISTORY. It would be little satisfaction to our class of readers, were we to enumerate the various Saxon, Greek, and Latin names, by which Bath was known to our learned ancestors. It is sufficient for the purposes of general curiosity, if we say that it is reckoned the Aquæ Solis of Antoninus, and that the Avon is the Antona of Tacitus.

The

The Roman forces are supposed to have subjugated all this part of Britain, about the year of our Lord 44, in the reign of the emperor Claudius, and under the immediate conduct of Flavius Vespasian. Bladud's foundation of the city is carried back to a period long before the birth of our Saviour ; but his legend bears so fabulous an appearance, that every thing respecting him is suspicious, even to his very existence. The Saxon name for Bath, which, according to Camden, signified *the city of Valetudinarians*, implies a decided knowledge of the property of the waters, which it certainly required neither magic nor fable to discover, or render an act of reason.

Till the latter end of the sixth century, Bath continued in the possession of the Britons. Soon afterwards, the decision of a battle forced it to submit to the Saxon yoke : it remained part of the West Saxon dominions for near two centuries more ; but, before this time, it is said that Osric, a Northumbrian king, had erected in the city of Bath a house

house of female religious, in honor of God and St. Peter.

Offa, king of Mercia, rescued this city from the Saxons, about the year 774; and to him the re-edification of Osric's monastery, which the chances of war had demolished, is owing. He not only re-built it, but instituted there a society of secular canons.

After having suffered greatly by the Danish irruption, the city revived with increased vigor in the reign of Edgar, who was consecrated and crowned in the church of St. Peter.

Till the reign of William Rufus, Bath appears to have enjoyed a state of uniform tranquillity. A species of revolution was then effected in it by John de Villula, a native of Tours in the Orleannois, and a practitioner of physic at Bath, who having, by his interest with the monks, procured for himself the bishopric of Wells, and retaining a doting partiality for Bath, strove to remove the

the pontifical seat from Wells thither. The sanction of the crown being necessary for this act of episcopal violence, the bishop and the monks purchased the city of the king for five hundred marks. The bishop then repaired the monastery, built a palace near it, and adorned the city with various buildings.

It was, as we learn from Mr. Collinson, at the instance of bishop Burnet, temp. Edward I. that this city first sent members to parliament.

It is to be lamented, that, after the convulsions of war have abated, and the difficulties of colonization are overcome, topographical history is generally silent. We know little of the civil state of Bath, or of its buildings, till the middle of the sixteenth century, about which time a map or view of it was published by a Dr. Jones, which represents the city as of an irregularly pentagonal form, surrounded by its wall, and comprehending a tract of ground not difficult to trace, even in its

its present state. Another plan was published by Dr. Guidott, but little differing from this.

But the ecclesiastical occurrences, though less interesting to the visitors of Bath, have come down to us in more regular continuity. The episcopal see was removed back to Wells in the reign of King John; and soon after the dissolution of monasteries, King Henry VIII. by letters patent, granted the scite of the abbey, with many appendages, to Humphry Colles, esq. who shortly sold it to Matthew Colthurst, whose son gave the abbey-church, then become ruinous, together with some ground about it, to the mayor and citizens of Bath, for their parochial church and church-yard. The abbey-house, and the park, called *Prior's park*, Mr. Collinson says, were sold, 1569, to Fulk Morley, from whose descendants it came to the duke of Kingston.

The city having thus devolved to the care of the laity, its bounds were extended, trade was encouraged, the reputation of the waters was increasing, and it became a general resort for strangers.

In the reign of Elizabeth, people of distinction lent all their aid to establish the fame of Bath and its springs, for the political purpose of keeping invalids at home in their own country, by supplying them there with the means of obtaining health. Elizabeth knew well the ill effects of suffering wealth to travel; and the fashion of the court was the fashion of the time.

The accommodations for such as sought the benefit of the waters, were very sordid and inadequate, till near the close of the sixteenth century, when the improvements began by the erection of an aqueduct in the king's bath: acts of parliament passed in favor of the city and corporation. The queen of James I. came hither

hither to bathe. A new bath was then constructed.

The *Cross* and *Hot baths*, with a house for the private accommodation of bathers, were finished in 1602. The public spirited generosity of Mr. Bellot, in the foundation of his hospital, and in his benefactions to the abbey, excited others to bestow their munificence on Bath ; but still much was wanting to render the city what the visitors, even of that time, wished it ; and the civil government was so remiss, that the injury of morals, hazarded by resorting to these waters, almost counterbalanced their salutary advantages.

The city was, in the early part of the civil war, garrisoned by Charles I. and seven thousand pounds were bestowed on its fortifications ; but, on the approach of some dragoons, the gates were thrown open, and it surrendered. It then became one of the principal posts of the parliament forces in the

the county ; and here Sir William Waller lay for a long time. After the battle of Round-way-down, 1643, in which this general was defeated, the king's troops again took possession of Bath without obstruction.

In 1652, the Viscountess Scudamore gave a singular instance of ingenious liberality, by settling a salary on a physician, who should be elected annually by the mayor and aldermen of Bath, to assist gratuitously the poor in general with his best advice : and about 1650, the corporation began to put in force bye-laws, previously framed, for removing nuisances, and establishing order in the city. The good effects of these regulations were immediately visible ; people began to flock to Bath for recreation as well as for health ; and the woollen trade flourished here with the most respectable success.

Charles II. at his coronation, created John Granville, son of Sir Beville Granville, earl of Bath, baron Granville, and viscount Lansdown.

down. In 1663, the same king brought his queen to the bath. Sir Alexander Fraser, attending her majesty as her physician, observed the quality of the waters, and advised the drinking them. It was he who, returning to the city about the year 1673, for some bodily ailment of his own, projected the method now used for drawing the water from the spring.

Queen Anne, and her husband, the prince of Denmark, contributed much to the increase of company, by their visit to Bath in the year 1702 and 1703. The city was so crowded, that many families were forced to retreat to the neighbouring villages, lodgings being at that time so scarce as to oblige those who occupied them to pay a guinea a night for their beds.

Familiar treatises and essays were now published, explaining the properties and uses of the Bath waters ; and the ceremonial administration of Mr. Nash stamped Bath with the

the character of an exhilarating retreat for almost all invalids, and a scene of unintermitting gaiety for those who enjoyed, with perfect health, the means of purchasing the brilliant pleasures of society.

Of this singular benefactor to Bath, whose character was truly original, and very differently understood, it is foreign to our purpose to speak at large. An anonymous life of him, printed by Newbery, in the year 1762, with the motto, ‘ Non ego paucis offendar maculis,’ gives a very candid and judicious portrait of him ; and the great good sense with which it is written, removes us equally from the danger of contemning Mr. Nash for the faults of his character, and of idolizing him for his eccentric virtues. To this work, therefore, we refer our readers, contenting ourselves with observing, that greater evidences of veneration for a patron-saint are hardly to be found in any city of the continent, than those dispersed up and down Bath, to commemorate the existence of a man whom nature

nature seems to have intended equally for the office he filled, and the place where he held it.

The anonymous author of the life of Nash, speaking of the revolution brought about in Bath by this singular man, deduces very rationally the motives by which company were drawn hither. He says, ' At this time, London was the only theatre in England for pleasure and intrigue. A spirit of gaming had been introduced in this licentious age of Charles II. and had by this time thriven surprizingly ; yet all its devastaions were confined to London alone. To this great mart of every folly, sharpers from every country daily arrived for the winter, but were obliged to leave the kingdom at the approach of summer, in order to open a new campaign at Aix, Spa, or the Hague. Bath, Tunbridge, Scarborough, and other places of the same kind here, were then frequented only by such as really went for relief ; the pleasures they afforded were merely rural, the company splenetic, rustic, and vulgar. In this

this situation of things, people of fashion had no agreeable summer-retreat from the town, and usually spent that season amidst a solitude of country squires, parsons' wives, and visiting tenants or farmers; they wanted some place where they might have each other's company, and win each other's money, as they had done during the winter in town.

‘ To a person who does not thus calmly trace things and their source, nothing will appear more strange, than how the healthy could ever consent to follow the sick to those places of spleen, and live with those whose disorders are ever apt to excite a gloom in the spectator. The truth is, the gaming-table was properly the salutary font to which such numbers flocked.

‘ The spirit of Mr. Nash was particularly roused by the threats of an eminent physician that he would *write down* the Bath waters. To this threat, Nash opposed the more silent

silent allurements of intoxicating pleasure ; and how he succeeded, the city is to this day a witness.

In the year 1734, the prince of Orange visited Bath, and received great benefit from the use of the waters, which Mr. Nash, in his whimsical generosity, recorded on an obelisk erected at his own expence, in the grove, called afterwards *Orange Grove* ; and, four years after, his royal highness Frederick prince of Wales, and his consort, conferring on this city the honor of a temporary residence, were, in like manner, immortalized, by the erection of another obelisk in *Queen-square*. The prince, pleased with the reception he had met with, made the corporation a present of a magnificent cup and salver.

ANTIQUITIES. In speaking of the antiquities of Bath, we shall confine ourselves to the mention of those which will excite the curiosity of visitors, by obtruding on their notice ; and of these, the first in precedence would be the ancient *city wall*, which was

L the

the work of the Romans ; but the extension of the city has almost obliterated this, before its time, from the sight and from the memory.

Of the four principal gates, named from the four cardinal points, and which formerly gave access to the city, no one is now remaining but the *East gate*. It was the smallest of the four, being only seven feet wide, and nine high ; the wall adjoining it on the westward, and now built on, is yet visible. The *West gate* was taken down in 1776 : there were some good apartments over it, which had occasionally been occupied by divers of the royal family.

The *abbey church*, which, though rather in the first rank of *public buildings*, must not be omitted under the head of *antiquities*, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and was rebuilt by Elphege Prior of Glastonbury, on his being promoted by king Edgar, about the year 970, to the presidency of the new abbey of Bath, which, upon that king's reformation

formation of religious establishments, had been founded in lieu of the ancient monastery. It received a variety of favors from succeeding abbots. In 1088, John de Villula annexed the abbey to his see, and subjected it to the government of a prior. In 1499, the old conventional church being ruinous, bishop Oliver King, at the instance, and with the assistance of William Bird, the then prior, set about rebuilding it ; but neither of them lived to see it finished. The next prior applied himself to this great work ; but in 1539 was obliged to surrender the whole to the king ; and it was granted away, as has been said, to Humphrey Colles.

The buildings of the monastery extended over a large space of ground : they consisted of the church, cloisters, chapter-house, prior's house, monks' lodgings, and dormitory, built by bishop Beckington. Some time after the dissolution, the prior's house was repaired, and again made habitable : a part of the old house was left in its primitive state. On pulling down some of these buildings, in the beginning

beginning of the present century, one of the apartments which had been walled up, and never explored, disclosed a curious sight. Round the walls, upon pegs, were hung the officiating habiliments of the religious, which, on the admission of the air, became so rotten as to crumble into powder. There was also found the handle of a crosier, and on the floor lay two large chests, *empty*, as the workmen declared, one of whom, however, grew rich immediately, and retired from business.

After having been exposed, as Mr. Collinson expresses it, to the ruthless elements for a number of years, it was, by the contributions of pious benefactors, particularly of Thomas Bellot, esq. and bishop Montague, fitted up for divine worship in nearly its present style. It is a very magnificent building, in the form of a cross, light and airy; but with a due mixture of solidity. From east to west, it measures two hundred and twelve feet; from north to south one hundred and twenty-six. The breadth of the nave and side aisles is seventy-feet; the choir in length is

is seventy-four. Over the intersection of the cross stands the tower, beautiful in its form, one hundred and sixty-two feet high, and containing ten large bells. The west end of the nave is profusely decorated with sculpture. The great door, which was beautified in 1617 by Sir Henry Montague, knt. lord chief justice of the king's bench, is richly carved, and charged with the arms of the see, impaling those of Montague ; and on one side of it, in a nich, stands a large statue of St. Peter ; on the other, that of St. Paul. At each angle of the front is an octagon turret, on the sides whereof are images of the twelve apostles ; and in the fore part are represented angels ascending and descending a lofty ladder, expressive, as is said, of a dream or vision of bishop Oliver King, previous to his design of rebuilding the church. Sir John Harington relates this circumstance in the following passage :

‘ Dr. King, having been at Bath, imagined, as he one night lay meditating in bed, that he saw the Holy Trinity, with angels ascending

ascending and descending by a ladder, near to which was a fair olive tree, supporting a crown.

‘ The impression was so strong, that the prelate thought he heard a voice, which said,

“ Let an Olive establish the crown, and let a King restore the church.”

Over the great window is a representation of the Holy Trinity, surrounded with angels and cherubs, which has given offence to some serious people, by exhibiting that species of presumption which is never worse employed than in attempts to render that familiar which cannot be held too sacred. An inscription accompanies this sculpture, ‘ *De sursum est.*’ It is from on high.

Over the window of the north aisle is this inscription, in old English characters, *Domus mea*, my house: over that of the south, *Domus orōnis*, i. e. *orationis*—the house of prayer.

prayer. On each of the buttresses, at the angles, is carved in high relief, an olive-tree, supported by two elephants, and underneath is, in the same character as the foregoing inscriptions, the following allusion to the founder's name, taken from the ninth chapter of the book of Judges.

Irerunt ligna ut ungerent super se regem
Dixeruntque Olivæ 'Impera nobis.'

Trees going to choose their king,
Said, Be to us the Oliver king.

The choir is very neat, and has that solemnity in its appearance, that strikes the mind with devotional awe. The party-coloured glass of the east window is whimsically disposed in the form of billets, in allusion, as it is said, to the name of its donor, Thomas Bellot, esq. called by many *Billet*.

The nave of the church is lofty, and is divided from the side aisles by twelve clustered pillars, supporting elliptic arches.

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The inside of the cathedral contains a great number of monuments, some of which are extremely well executed. To one, at the south end of the south transept, belongs an anecdote, which is recorded by Mr. Collinson. The monument is to the memory of Jane, lady Waller ; and the sculpture represents the effigy of the knight, her husband, in armor, in a cumbent posture, raised on his right arm, and mourning over his lady by his side. At their head is a son, and at their feet a daughter, sitting. The face of the knight has lost the nose, which is said to have been ‘ hacked off’ by James II. as he passed through the church ; but James more than once proved himself a brave man, and therefore it is not easy to suppose him capable of so mean a revenge, nor however ill entitled he is to our respect, is it very credible that he, whose greatest faults shewed a bigotted slavery even to the external forms of religion, should be so ready to deface the ornament of a church.

The altar-piece, the subject of which is the wise men's offering, was a gift to the cathedral by general Wade : the coloring of the picture has lost its brilliancy, nor can it be considered in any way a *chef d'œuvre*.

On the east front of the church are a number of Roman inscriptions, still legible, which will be found at large in Mr. Collinson's valuable history of Somersetshire.

Abundance of inscriptions, fragments of statues and of buildings, and other Roman antiquities, have been dug up in and near Bath. These are carefully preserved by different persons in different places. The corporation have deposited several in the guild-hall. Coins are not unfrequently dug up ; so that, as if the city were itself desirous of pleasing the taste of all its visitors, it offers to them, with health and gaiety, an opportunity of gratifying refined curiosity.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS. Under this head, the places of worship claim, on account of
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their use, our first notice. Bath is divided into four parishes:—1. *St. Peter and St. Paul*, i. e. the abbey parish.—2. *St. James*.—3. *St. Michael*.—4. *Walcot*. Of these, the church of the first is already described. That of *St. James* is a little eastward from the scite of the old south gate. This church originally consisted of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with an embattled tower at the east end. In 1716, it was partially taken down, and an additional aisle and tower were erected; and in 1768, the body of the church was rebuilt by subscription. It is sixty-one feet in length, and fifty-eight in breadth, and is supported by four Ionic columns. The altar is inclosed within a large semicircular niche, in the front of which is a painting of the Last Supper. There are no monuments in this church; but it has eight very well-toned bells.

St. Michael's church, which, to distinguish it from another *St. Michael*, was, when both existed, distinguished by the addition of *extra muros* [without the walls], is situated between

between the northern limits of the old city and the foot of Lansdown hill. The present building is not more than sixty years old, and is of the Doric order, with a dome: it is in length sixty-three feet, in breadth thirty-seven. On the north-west side is a tower, in which are eight bells.

Of the architecture of this church, Mr. Wood speaks in terms of opprobrium that may well be forgiven to one who understood the art of building, and was offended when its rules were violated. He says, that so little credit was gained by the man employed to design it, that the very workmen, to mortify him, declared, that a horse accustomed to the sight of good buildings was so frightened at the odd appearance of the church, that he would not pass it till he was hoodwinked.

Walcot church, dedicated to St. Swithin, stands on the slope of the north-east base of Lansdown. This church, on the first view, declares itself a creation of the latter end of the

the eighteenth century : it has a chapel-like appearance, with the addition of a small tower and spire ; the former of which contains a clock and three bells. The church was built in 1780.

The chapels of Bath are, 1. *Queen-square chapel*, dedicated to the Virgin Mary : it was begun in 1734, by subscription, and is private property. The outside is Doric—the inside Ionic ; and it has a handsome portico towards the square. Mr. Wood, who built it, says it cost 2000*l.* 2. *The Octagon chapel*, a light building, finished in 1767: here is a good altar-piece, painted by Mr. Hoare. 3. *Margaret chapel*, in Margaret buildings, built in 1773. It is a neat Gothic structure, seventy feet by sixty. The altar stands in a recess, and is decorated with a painting of the Wise Men's Offering, by Mr. Williams. 4. *The chapel under Lansdown place* is Gothic, and very neat, embellished with turrets and niches. It has a small tower at the west end. 5. A chapel, at Lower East Hayes, in Walcot parish ; and, 6, Another, built on a tontine, in

Henrietta-

Henrietta-street, complete the list of places of public worship. The chapel of St. John is an adjunct to the hospital so called.

The dissenting chapels, or meeting-houses, are, *Lady Huntingdon's*, in Harlequin-row; *Mr. Wesley's*, in New King-street; *Mr. Whitfield's*, in St. James's Passage; *Anabaptists*, in Garrard-street; *Quakers'*, in Merchant's Court, High-street; *Independents'*, in Argyle-buildings; *Moravians'*, in Monmouth-street; *Roman-catholics'*, in Corn-street; and *Unitarians'*, in Frog-lane, Burton-street.

Adverting to the uses, rather than to the architectural rank of public buildings, and having already noticed, in our account of the waters, the several baths, we will enumerate the edifices reared for the noble purpose of charity.

St. John's Hospital is situated in the western part of the city, near the *Cross Bath*. It is a very old foundation, and was rebuilt, in 1728, by the Duke of Chandos. It maintains

tains six poor men and as many poor women, who reside in it, and have a weekly allowance of four shillings and two-pence each. They have a chapel in which prayers are read to them twice a day. The lord chancellor, lord keeper, master of the rolls, and bishop of the diocese for the time being, are its visitors.

South east-ward from this, stands *Bellot's hospital* founded upon part of the lands belonging to St. John's hospital, by Thomas Bellot, esq. who was household-steward and one of the executors of lord-treasurer Burleigh. An inscription recording the grant, and placed over the door, is dated 1672. The building is low, sixty-seven feet in front, and forty-six in depth, with a court in the centre. Twelve poor men and women who, besides lodging and the liberty of bathing gratis, have the small stipend of one shilling and ten-pence per week, but no clothing, are annually maintained here; but the charity seems to want the aid of munificent friends, if it be true that the stipend is discontinued, and the house shut up during the winter half year.

This

This charity is under the guardianship of the city ; and is often mentioned by the name of *Rustat's* or *Ruscott's charity* ; *Rustat* being the name of the grantor of the ground.

St. Catharine's Hospital, known also by the names of the *Bimberries* and the *Black Alms*, is situated in a narrow passage to the south of *Bellot's Hospital*, and was founded by two sisters named Bimbury. It was rebuilt by the corporation in 1553 ; is a mean structure two stories high, containing fourteen tenements for as many poor persons of either sex, ten of whom have an allowance of three shillings and six-pence weekly, and a black coat once in two years. Here was anciently a chapel.

Two other inconsiderable foundations that rank with these, are mentioned by Mr. Wood ; the *Leper's Hospital* adjoining the *Leper's Bath*, which derived its water from the *Hot Bath*, and *St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital*, which had a chapel, and was a retreat for ideots ; but of these, perhaps, only the tradition remains.

The

The General Hospital or Infirmary, is that which has acquired the most celebrity. This truly benevolent institution was projected as far back as the year 1711 ; but the want of a sufficient fund prevented its execution till 1738, when, by the united and indefatigable exertions of Dr. Oliver and Mr. Nash, a subscription was raised, and in 1742, the building was completed, Mr. Allen having contributed all the stone for it. An act of parliament for incorporating the directors was procured ; and the house was opened for the reception, under certain regulations, of all sick poor of Great Britain or Ireland, whose cases required the use of the Bath waters, with the exception only of those belonging to Bath, to whom other advantages had been previously held out in the access they have by prescription to the waters. Mr. Wood relates a circumstance respecting the bringing this noble scheme to perfection, that is too pleasing to humanity to be omitted. All those concerned in this undertaking, performed their several parts in it at their own cost, and the expences of the meetings necessary for
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consultation, were defrayed by those who composed them; so that not a shilling of the subscription was diverted from its immediate purpose.

The building is situated on the north side of the old city, and stands on the scite of the old theatre. It is a very handsome structure of the Ionic order, ninety-nine feet long in front. It is well laid out, and well regulated.

The exclusion of the Bath poor from the benefit of the General hospital, gave rise to another charity, which, in 1747, was established under the name of the *Pauper charity*, and limited to those of the several parishes of Bath.

The *Casualty hospital*, instituted in 1788, was founded by the private subscriptions of a few inhabitants of the city. It is, as its name imports, a charity appropriated to the use of those who meet with accidents to their limbs or bodies. The patients have been

very numerous. The building is in Kingsmead-street. This is one of the institutions that deserve equal praise for the ingenuity that contrives, and the liberality that supports them. Bath is a place to which such charity is peculiarly applicable, as the number of inhabitants, the haste of travelling, the stone quarries, and even the steep declivity of many parts, must occasion more accidents than happen in most other places.

Two other humane institutions remain to be spoken of. The *Blue-coat charity*, begun in 1711, by the learned and exemplary Mr. Nelson; and the *Public grammar school* founded by Edward VI. The school-house for the former is near Bridewell-lane, and was built in 1721. It is large and lofty, and contains one hundred children, who at the age of fourteen are apprenticed out. The other is a handsome structure, erected in 1752, in Broad-street, and in which the citizens' children are taught the Latin grammar.

We

We come now to the *New Guildhall*, or *Town-hall*, which is an elegant building designed by Mr. Baldwin, and erected on the east side of the market-place, where it is highly ornamental. It consists of a centre and wings, and contains many useful and magnificent apartments. The banqueting room is eighty feet in length, forty in breadth, and thirty-one in height, and is very elegantly decorated.

Here are deposited the colossal head of Minerva, dug up in Stall-street, in 1725, and a variety of other antiquities.

Behind the Guildhall are the markets.

The *City prison* stands in Bathwick meadow, on the eastern bank of the Avon, and is a spacious edifice fit for the purpose.

The *Theatre* is in Orchard street, just at the south-east angle of the old wall, and near the parades, with which it communicates by a portico on the west side of Pierpoint-street.

It

It is small, but very commodious and neat ; even the inhabitants of London and Westminster are indebted to this theatre, it having been the hot-bed on which many a hero and heroine of the sock and buskin have been brought to maturity.

The *Old Assembly-rooms* stand at one corner of Orange-grove, and were built in 1750. The great ball-room is ninety feet by thirty-six, and ornamented with a very handsome stucco ceiling, from which chandeliers are suspended. The card-room is sixty feet by thirty. Each of these rooms contains a portrait of Nash. The tea-rooms are neat and commodious.

The *New Assembly-rooms* are in the upper part of the city, on the east side of the Circus. They were erected between the years 1768 and 1771, by a subscription of only seventy persons, which amounted nearly to twenty thousand pounds ! The ball-room of this superb pile of building is one hundred and six feet in length, forty-three in breadth, and

and forty-two in height. One of the card-rooms is an octagon of forty-eight feet diameter, and contains two portraits of masters of the ceremonies: that of Captain Wade is done by Gainsborough in his best manner. The smaller card-room is an oblong of seventy feet by twenty-seven. All these rooms are elegantly fitted up and furnished with sumptuous chandeliers, &c.

The *Coffee-houses* of Bath are sufficiently important to rank as public buildings. They are three; viz. that in the Grove, that on the Parade, and that adjoining the New rooms, and are all in the very first style of modern elegance.

PRESENT STATE OF THE CITY. To give any methodical account of Bath at the present day, it is necessary to trace many things to a source that would hardly repay travellers or visitors for the tediousness of the detail. We will therefore only say as much as we think should be known by every person designing to go thither.

Bath

Bath is governed by a mayor, recorder, eight other aldermen, twenty common-councilmen, and a town-clerk. It sends two members to parliament, has two fairs in a year, a market for meat, poultry, &c. &c. on Wednesdays and Saturdays; and one for fish on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A greater variety or abundance of the very best provisions is no where to be found.

In its ecclesiastical constitution, Bath is one sole rectory exclusive of Walcot. The corporations are the patrons: the income is not estimated at more than £.200 a year, and the churches are served by curates, who, for their emoluments, depend on the generosity of the inhabitants and visitors. Walcot is a rectory, and the patronage of it is vested in the lord of the manor.

The trade of Bath, though at various times flourishing in the clothing branch, and afterwards by the manufacture of stone and metal, seems now to consist solely in the traffic of the waters, and the entertainment of strangers.

gers. The Avon was made navigable so long ago as 1727, and barges are employed on it to and from Bristol.

The form of the city, though anciently a pentagon, is now nearly a triangle, the suburbs having spread wider in the heights towards Lansdown, than at the opposite part towards the river.

It would convey no distinct idea to the reader, were we to enumerate every street and lane in Bath. We will therefore confine ourselves to mentioning the principal parts of the city and suburbs.

Orange-grove is a fine open area, one hundred and ninety feet by one hundred and seventy. It is planted with rows of elms. In the centre is the obelisk erected by Mr. Nash, in compliment to the prince of Orange. On the south side of the grove is a paved terrace walk, two hundred feet in length, and twenty-seven in breadth, called the *Walks*.

The

The *North Parade* is a noble terrace, raised on arches, and is fifty-two feet broad, and near five hundred and forty long. The buildings are confined to the south side, and are very handsome and convenient. They command a lovely view of the beautiful vale to the eastward of Bath, watered by the Avon, and skirted by the hills.

The *South Parade* nearly resembles the other ; but its prospect being that of Widcombe, Prior park, and the hanging woods of Beechen cliff, is very different. The Avon flows at the east end, and there is a ferry over it into the meadows. In the front of the buildings on this parade, lies *the Ham*, originally a large meadow, but now mostly converted into garden grounds.

Here let us beg the reader's patience, while we notice a vulgar error respecting this meadow. The word *Ham* is of Saxon derivation, and imports a dwelling-place, as might easily be inferred from the use made of it, as an adjunct to a variety of proper names, when a place

The South Parade.



a *place* was to be denominated from a *person*. It is however the opinion of some, who have been resident at Bath, that this meadow is so named from its fancied resemblance to a *ham* of bacon, and accordingly it has been represented in that form.

King's mead square, so called from a plot of ground, part of the ancient royal demesne, is an area of one hundred and fifty feet, by one hundred and twenty.

Queen square is on the north-west side of the city, and stands on an elevated spot. It is in length from north to south three hundred and sixteen feet, and in breadth three hundred and six. In the centre is a planted inclosure, ornamented by the pointed obelisk erected by Mr. Nash, in honour of the prince and princess of Wales.

Nothing can exceed, in correctness of architecture and elegance of design, the houses surrounding this area. The whole credit of them is due to the late Mr. Wood, who to a

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very rich fancy, joined that degree of architectural science, necessary for so great a work as the embellishment of this city.

The *King's Circus*, which communicates with Queen square, by Gay-street, is a grand circular range of houses, uniform in appearance, exhibiting the graces of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders, and magnificently ornamented. The centre is a reservoir of water.

The *Royal Crescent* connects with the west side of the Circus by the medium of Brock-street. It is of an elliptical form, and the buildings are superb; a single row of Ionic columns supports the cornice. The Crescent contains only thirty houses, and commands a delightful view of great part of the city, the vale on each side of the river, and the opposite hills, among which Barrow hill makes a singular, but highly picturesque appearance. This eminence, whose name imports that it is thought a tumulus, though it has been by many deemed a natural mount, stands on the brow of a high ridge of hill, about half a mile

mile eastward from the village of Englishcombe, close by the side of the road from Bristol to Frome, and commands, from its summit, a full view of the city of Bath, the Wiltshire hills, Lansdown, the vale of Avon, and a long tract of Gloucestershire beyond it, bounded by the Severn, and Cambrian mountains.

To return into Bath.—*Marlborough buildings* stand at the west end of the Crescent, are very handsome, and form the boundary of the city westward. It is towards the north that the extension now takes its course; *Lansdown place*, the name of which denotes its situation, is very much elevated, and commands a noble prospect from the Wiltshire hills on the east, to the environs of Bristol on the west, and including the lofty tower of Dundry.

Between Marlborough buildings, and the Lansdown road, occur a variety of elegant dwellings. At the end of Lansdown-street, and upon the edge of a projecting point, called Beacon-hill, is a superb range of

of buildings of an elliptic form, called *Camden place*, and now, after a variety of hindrances that would have damped the ardor of any but Bath builders, completed. Almost immediately under it lies Walcot, serving to decorate a prospect in itself extremely beautiful.

Catherine-place and *Portland-place*, must not be omitted in our enumeration of the elegant structures of Bath; but the additions on the Pulteney estate form almost another town. *Laura-place*, four rows of superb houses disposed in a lozenge, is one of the most distinguished spots on it for space and magnificence. These erections are after plans made by Mr. Baldwin, and every day is adding to the extent and grandeur of the city in this quarter.

In this part the Avon has a handsome modern bridge, called the *New Bridge*, built over it at Mr. Pulteney's expence. It rests on two arches, and on each side is a row of small neat shops, which entirely conceal from the passenger that he is crossing the water.

Near

New Bridge at Bath.



Bridge of St. Lawrence.



Near this bridge, and to the south of Laura-place, is *Spring-garden, Vauxhall*, a place of great resort in the summer season; but the ground will shortly be covered with houses, and this entertainment removed. Opposite to this garden is the weir above which the river is not navigable.

The situation of the new Vauxhall, which supersedes the entertainments of this place, is an area of nineteen acres, at the east end of Great Pulteney-street.

Grosvenor hotel and gardens are on the bank of the Avon, east of the London road, and within a small distance of the Guild-hall.— Both this, and Spring-garden are to be supported by subscription; but the present situation of public affairs has stopped their completion.

Bath is divided from the parishes of Widcombe and Lincomb, by *St. Laurence's gate and bridge*.

The

The streets in the new part of Bath are wide and airy, the footways paved with broad flag stones, and most of them being on a declivity, they are made clean by a shower, and presently dry after the heaviest rain.

The police of the city contributes much to the comfort of an abode there ; and it is to its well digested and enforced by-laws, that the visitors owe it that they can never be imposed on. The corporation have adjusted the price of the respective baths, and the fees to be given to attendants ; and if complaint is necessary, there are magistrates ready to grant redress, sitting every Monday morning at the Guildhall. The chairmen are also under the controul of the corporation : a table of fines is printed, and they are compellable to carry the chair five hundred yards for six-pence, and a proportional greater distance for a shilling.

PROJECTED IMPROVEMENTS. Till the check the rage for building experienced at the breaking out of the war, Bath bid fair

fair shortly to double its present bulk ; and it must be confessed, that no place affords greater encouragement to a spirit of adventure, whether we consider its natural or acquired advantages. All who have ever visited it, acknowledge it to be *unique*, and captivating in the highest degree ; and when even the improvements now determined on are carried into execution, it will be still more fascinating to the eye of taste.

In the year 1789, the corporation procured an act of parliament, for widening and enlarging the principal avenues in the lower, or old town, and for making five new streets. The first of these is to lead from Burton-street to Stall-street ; the second, from the west side of Stall-street to the Cross Bath ; the third, from the north side of the Cross Bath to Westgate-street ; the fourth, from the south side of the Cross Bath to the Borough Wall ; and the fifth, from the west side of Stall-street to the Borough Wall.

A new

A new road is to be made through Bathwick meadows, communicating with the New Bridge, by which a considerable stretch of the London road through Walcot, &c. will be cut off. On the Pulteney estate, there are to be many more new streets, a square, a circus, and a crescent.

AMUSEMENTS. The various modes of dissipation at Bath are not to be looked on, if reasonably pursued, as the serious evils they would be in almost every other place. Application of all kinds being injurious to those who seek health from the waters, idleness here becomes a virtue, and a most painful one it is to those who are accustomed to habits of industry. But as it is necessary, it must be recommended ; and strongly recommended it is at Bath, by all that can give activity to *ennui*.

The circumjacent country affords, to a sensible mind, that species of pleasure which dilates the imagination, and makes the heart expand

expand without fatiguing the spirits or relaxing the nervous system. Surely, even to an uninformed eye, nothing can afford more exquisite delight than the contemplation of a richly variegated prospect; and with such prospects the vicinity of Bath abounds. Those, whose trifling hours to be palatable must be scientific, may find pleasure in searching for fossils and plants; and for more genuine idlers, the theatre, the parades, the rooms, the coffee-houses, nay, the very shops and streets, prepare incessant amusement. Those who follow the stream of pleasure, live in a scene of gaiety that varies with the hours. In the morning they assemble at the Pump-room; till noon they lounge on the Parades; from thence it is customary to return to the Pump-room, to inspect the arrivals, &c. After this, they ride to the adjacent downs, or take a fresh stroll; then dress for dinner, and finish with the theatre or the ball, or private parties. The balls close at eleven, even if in the middle of a dance: a regulation it would be well to adopt at the sea-bathing public places, where, for want

of it, many *contract*, instead of *dismissing* diseases.

We will now consider Bath and its neighbouring objects, as is more particularly our province, under the idea of *landscape* and *subject for study*, remarking, in the course of these observations, whatever places most attract our notice.

The general aspect of Bath depends more for its characteristics on the hour of the day, and the state of the atmosphere, than almost any other city. In a clear morning, half an hour after sun-rise, and when the smoke of the town, which is always the greatest at the time of lighting fires, is dispelled, the eastern part of the town appears to great advantage, particularly Camden-place, and Beacon-hill: the light partially connects itself with the lower town, till it reaches the cathedral; it is then intercepted by Claverton-downs; and the remaining part of Bath, towards Widcombe, is enveloped in shade. When the sun has risen above the summit of the opposite

opposite down, the effect of the light then becomes general, and disperses without forming any composition for a picture.

An evening scene is productive of much more brilliant effect: the Crescents are then seen to the utmost advantage; their situation, their concave form, which catches a variety of light, and their tone of color, are then peculiarly adapted to the pencil. In the month of January, when the air is frosty, and the sun is dropping from the horizon, there is an effect of light and shadow on these buildings, and on the Circus, that is not to be described with the pen.

It will perhaps be objected, that the *whiteness* of Bath is highly unfriendly to it, considered as a picturesque object. Were it not for the variety of form in its buildings, and the various elevations on which they stand, this circumstance would certainly detract much from its beauty, at least in the artist's estimation; but there is a grey hue which objects in shadow assume, into which the white

white softens, and with which it harmonizes with peculiar effect at Bath.

When viewed from a small distance, the city has an appearance equally singular and beautiful : streets intersect streets—crescents rise above crescents, with plots of grass and small plantations intervening between them—the venerable majesty of the cathedral contrasts admirably with the newer buildings ; and the repose the eye finds when it wanders from the shewy grandeur of the stately edifices to the simplicity of the surrounding country, is equally friendly to our forming a correct judgment of the pretensions of both. The greatest defect in the *coup d'œil* is the want of the river Avon, which it is impossible to bring into the same view with the Cathedral and the Crescents. It, perhaps, might be done in a picture, but it is exceeding the limits of truth, which surely cannot be violated with greater impunity by the pencil, than by the tongue or pen, since it is still more the business of the former to impress correct ideas on the mind, than of the

the latter ; and it is to *forms* we have recourse, when *words* are inadequate to the conveying our conceptions.

And here, in justification of ourselves, if it should be urged against us, that, by copying too rigidly, we have sacrificed beauty to minute veracity, let us beg our readers' patience, while we candidly animadvert on a modern refinement in one branch of descriptive art, which seems to threaten the ruin of one species of integrity: a refinement, if false, that cannot be too strenuously opposed, as it comes from an authority, even we who condemn it, acknowledge to be respectable, and with which we often are happy to coincide.

We have been industriously taught of late, that, when delineating a view from nature, we are not only permitted, but obliged, if we would gain the approbation which all artists seek, to correct any deformities or discords we may meet with in the objects before us. Now, if this practice be once admitted and
fanc-

sanctioned, adieu to all resemblance in landscape, and to all those pleasing emotions which are excited when we trace on canvas the haunts of our youth, or the scenes endeared to us by circumstances of social or domestic felicity. All deviation from beauty is not ugliness, all want of harmony is not grating discord. Perhaps, the strait line, or unfortunate angle was the feature which gave character to the view ; and without it all comparison may be vain.

Another strong objection to the practice here reprobated, is, that the ideas of hardly any two will agree respecting beauty, and, consequently, that what one artist would reject as stiff, heavy, or inharmonious, another may adopt as sublime and contrasting.

When we are employed to *compose* a junction of picturesque objects, we are undoubtedly at liberty to pillage all the store-houses of nature, to groupe, to transpose, and to riot in all the luxuriance of fancy ; but a *portrait* must be a resemblance, or it is worth little

little to the possessor; and if we assume to ourselves the licence of planting and felling trees, cleaving mountains, and bending rivers, what is to deter us, when depicting the human form, from amending in it whatever we think faulty?

When, exercising our taste without restraint, we seek a spot affording a subject for the pencil, we are not compellable to take such as thwart our ideas of picturesque beauty; but when we are instructed as to the composition of our picture, surely fidelity demands that it should be a copy, and not a creation.

We must often caricature improprieties before we can judge how far small deviations will lead us astray. Suppose, then, we are directed, in a strongly-featured country, to a level encompassed with dusky rocks, barren, and, to use the modern phrase, *impracticable*: suppose the middle of the plain affords us some acres of a lake rectilinear in its boundaries, that the back-ground is formed of

of a mountain divided in the middle by an angular opening ; and that the fore-ground, on one hand, gives us an acclivity nearly answering to one of these masses. The picturesque painter turns with abhorrence from such a jargon of crossing lines, till recollecting that a wood in the farthest distance, a ragged plantation on one of the rocks, a graceful bend of the water, and a little chizeling of the fore-ground, or the partial concealment of it by an old oak, will make it an agreeable view, he sets to work, and presently produces a creation, it is true, of his own brain, but not a representation of an awful, sterile country.

On the whole, as to falsify is to deceive ; and as to attempt ornament is often to deform what was not designed for it, we, in this work are content to take our views as they really exist, aiming at nothing higher than making the most of them, by chusing a good point of view, and satisfied with the praise of scrupulous fidelity.



Lansdown Place.

One of the greatest pleasures attending a visit to Bath, being that of exploring the beautiful country that surrounds it, we will endeavour to point out to observation the seats and villages our limited leisure allowed us to examine.

Badmington, the seat of his grace the duke of Beaufort, is in Gloucestershire, and near a place called Petty France, the first stage from Bath to Oxford, Gloucester, &c. We leave Bath by Walcot, and, keeping the new road on the left hand of the London road, pass through Swainswick turnpike. This road is much to be preferred to that over Lansdown. Ascending the hill, we have a good view of the valley as far as Bath Ford, where King's-down terminates the landscape towards the Devizes.

The right of this hill is skirted by a wood of considerable extent, and near the summit is a plantation of young firs. On almost all the hills about Bath these trees are planted and thrive; but no artist can hail their ap-

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pearance: the gloomy and fullen aspect they present, renders a romantic scene often dull and disagreeable.

To the left of the hill, and on the brow of a smaller one, the village of Swainswick shews itself, encircled with elms and oaks. On the same side, and at a little distance, are the powder-mills, and the village of Wolley; and on the right, at the summit behind the road, is Swainswick-down.

Passing over Nimlet-down to the cross hands, there is an opening to the left, which presents to the eye the hills round Bristol, and, in the extreme distance, the mountains of Monmouthshire. There is hereabouts a point of sight, from which the Severn is visible across a valley of peculiar richness and beauty.

At the cross hands, the two roads from London to Bristol intersect each other. Little occurs to arrest the traveller's attention till we reach Petty France, which is the southern

southern extremity of the duke of Beaufort's park, and little more than a large inn, and its necessary appendages.

From the lodge-gate to the duke's house, a road, three miles long, and in a strait line, is cut through the park, which is in circumference estimated at nine or ten miles, and diversified with every thing that such scenery admits of. It abounds with deer and game of all sorts. Hares, in particular, are in such abundance, that it is impossible even to course them.

The gardens are elegantly laid out, and amply stocked with every vegetable delicacy.

At the close of the last century, when the science of botany was in few hands, and there were, perhaps, no botanic gardens in England, except the public ones at Oxford and Chelsea, and King William's at Hampton Court, the duchess of Beaufort cultivated a very curious collection of exotic plants at Badmington.

To

To our shame be it spoken, we spent so much time in admiring the beauties of the park and gardens, that we had no day-light left to take an accurate view of the house. What it is, may be judged of from the compliment king William bestowed on it (and no one will accuse him of a disposition to flatter) when he made the then duke a visit here. He said, he was not surprised that he came so seldom to his court, now that he saw he had a palace of his own; a species of commendation that might be very acceptable from so honest a man; but, in earlier times, it might have made the noble possessor fear lest such a sentiment as *This mon wud make a bra traitor*, or, *I mun have it for Carr*, might have transferred his property.

We were told that the house contained a good collection of pictures.

Farley castle is at the distance of six miles from Bath, and is, on account of its antiquity, its importance, and the beautiful romantic scenery with which it is encompassed, a sub-

a subject of equal gratification, whether contemplated by the antiquary, the historian, or the artist. Hill and valley, thick woods, and avenues protracted in long perspective ; and, above all, the savage state of desolation into which the ancient park is now sunk, form a picture that needs not the smallest aid from the imagination to impress the mind very forcibly.

The village of Farley may be traced back to the time of the Norman government in England, and was bestowed by the Conqueror as a gift on one of his followers, sir Roger de Curcelle. From him, it reverted again to the crown, and was granted to the Montforts by William Rufus ; whence the adjunct of Montfort to its name of Farley. It afterwards got into the Burghersh family ; and, after various meanderings, came to the Hungerfords : by sale, in 1686, the Bayntuns became the proprietors of the castle and demesne ; then it came to the Houlton family, to whom, after a little deviation into that of Frampton, it has returned, and is now

now the property of Joseph Houlton, esq. who is also the patron of the living.

How old this venerable fabric is, cannot be easily ascertained; but so early as 1383 it was fortified, and had great additions made to it by Thomas, lord Hungerford.

On comparing our own observations with the account given by Mr. Collinson of this monument of ancient grandeur, we find ourselves anticipated; and shall, therefore, take the liberty of preferring his words to any we could make use of to describe it.

‘ The ruins of the castle stand on the northern acclivity of a rocky hill, embowered with oaks, walnut-trees, and poplars, and present a melancholy picture of fallen greatness. It consisted of two courts, or wards, lying north and south; the court northward was one hundred and eighty feet in length from east to west, and one hundred and forty-four feet in breadth from north to south; and was flanked by four round towers

sixty feet in height. Each of these towers, the walls of which are five feet thick, was originally divided into three stories, the apartments lit by narrow windows and embrasures. The walls of the south-east and south-west towers are still remaining tolerably entire (except the stair-cases), and beautifully veiled with ivy. More than half also of the north-east tower is still standing: the southern wall being fallen down, the windows and old chimney-pieces, interwoven with ivy and wild roses, appear to view. The north-west tower is quite down, as are also all the intermediate walls and buildings, except a small portion of the parapet, which overlooks a deep dell shaded with the thickest wood. In this court stood the great hall, and the state apartments, which, (if tradition speaks the truth) were not to be equalled in grandeur by any structure in this part of England, being decorated with rich tapestry, exquisite sculpture, and beautiful paintings. The hall was a very large and long apartment, hung round with armor worn by its martial possessors, and spoils brought from Cressy, Poictiers, Agincourt, and Calais.

But

But, of these buildings which, towards the close of the last century, were nearly entire, the smallest remnant now is not left standing; the whole area of the court being rudely strewed with their ruins, which lie in heaps, covered with weeds and luxuriant herbage. A large gateway led from this to the southern court, in which were the offices, stables, store-houses, and guard-rooms; the principal entrance was on the east side, through an embattled gate-house, the shell of which is still standing. Before it, there was formerly a draw-bridge, over a deep moat, which surrounded the whole castle; the holes through which the pulleys of the bridge passed, are still visible in the gateway wall; and over the arch are the arms and crest of the Hungerfords, richly sculptured in the stone. On the eastern side of this court stands the chapel to which there is a descent of several steps. This building has of late years been repaired, and is now in tolerable condition: it consists of a nave and chantry chapel, on the north side; the former, fifty-six feet in length, and nineteen and a half in breadth; the latter, twenty feet in length, and fourteen

teen in breadth. The altar-slab is of rich granite ; against the south wall stands the old pulpit ; and underneath it are several pieces of armour, such as a head-piece and breast-plate, with a saddle, brought hither in an old chest from the old castle-hall, about the time of its demolition.

‘ In this chest were found several original letters of Oliver Cromwell, of one of which the following is a copy :

SIR,

“ I AM very forrye my occa-
 “ cion will not permitt mee to return to you
 “ as I would. I have not yett fully spoken
 “ with the gentleman I sent to waite upon
 “ you ; when I shall doe it, I shall be enabled
 “ to be more perticular, being unwillinge to
 “ detaine your servante any longer. With my
 “ service to your lady and family I take leave
 “ and rest

“ Your affectionate servant,

July 30th.

“ O. CROMWELL.

For my honoured friend
 Mr. Hungerford, at his
 house. These.’

R

‘ The

‘ The cieling of this chapel was once decorated with a good painting of the resurrection, some parts of which still remain in lively colors ; and in a border underneath, are the figures of St. John, St. Philip, St. Bartholomew, St. Thomas, St. Matthew, St. James the great and St. James the less. Over the chapel door, cut in stone, is a garb between two tickles, the crest of the Hungerford family.

‘ Behind the chapel stands the old habitation of Walter Hungerford’s two chantry priests, now converted into a dairy ; the external walls of this part of the castle retain some of their pristine battlements.

‘ In this castle was born Margaret Plantagenet, daughter of George duke of Clarence, brother of king Edward IV.

‘ The village of Farley is but small, containing about twenty families. The living is rectorial. The parish-church stands on an eminence southward from the castle, and is of one

one aisle, ninety-two feet in length and twenty-four in breadth. At the west end is a small tower, containing five bells.'

Corsham house, the seat of Paul Methuen, esq. is in Wiltshire, ten miles from Bath, and four from Chippenham, on the road to London. The situation of this house is said to be near that of a palace built by the Saxon king Ethelred; and the foundation of this family mansion is ascribed to William Holliday, esq. alderman and sheriff of London, who died in 1648.

The present proprietor has much enlarged and beautified the building, and has erected a gallery seventy feet by twenty-four, for the reception of his collection of pictures.

The park is extensive, and in many parts affords good subjects for the pencil. From hence we made an excursion through Chippenham, to pay an external visit to *Burr-wood*, the seat of the marquis of Lansdown. In his park there is a mausoleum erected to the memory

memory of the late earl of Shelburne, whose body was interred beneath the spot it stands on. The marquis has greatly extended and improved the park, by the addition of a large piece of water.

Returning from Burr-wood, we halted at Chippenham, and found it a pleasant market-town, situated in an extensive valley. From this town, there is every way, for the distance of three miles, a paved path-way, which is kept in repair by a legacy bequeathed for the purpose, by a lady who lived in the town.

Midford castle, situated in a hamlet of that name, about two miles south-west of Bath, is a modern edifice in a romantic spot, built a few years ago by Henry Disney Roebuck, esq. and now the residence of Dr. Pugh. Mr. Collinson describes the building and situation very accurately: he says, its construction is singular, being of a triangular form, with the angles rounded off, and embattled at the top. It is erected on the declivity of a hill,

a hill, and has a terrace surrounded with a balustrade of Bath stone. On the north and east sides, is a very deep narrow sequestered glen, the steep rugged sides of which are cloathed with fine coppice woods, intersected beautifully with serpentine walks, and ornamented with flowering shrubs. On an abrupt part of the brow which overlooks the hollow, at the bottom of which a brook, called *Horsecombe-brook*, murmurs along the rocky channel, is an elegant building called the *Priory*, a modern erection with an antique appearance, with gothic windows, and a circular battlemented tower, in which is a commodious tea-room, with offices below. At a little distance from this, under a thick mass of shade, stands a rustic hermitage, on the brow of a deep descent. The whole surrounding scenery is highly picturesque and romantic.

The church of *South Stoke* which joins this lovely hamlet, stands on the hill, and above it the prospect is finely diversified with inclosures, woods and bold rocks. To the south-east

east it is very extensive, being bounded only by the high ridge of Salisbury-plain. The nearer landscape offers to the sight the village, with its bridge and mills.

A transient glance at Midford castle would immediately recall to the English traveller's remembrance Eaglehurst, in Hampshire. The surrounding landscape resembles as much as is natural of that about Tivoli ; the rocks are no bad substitutes for ruins, and a contemplative eye may wander from the terrace at Midford castle, till the imagination is transported into Italy.

The solemn gloom of this enchanting spot, is accompanied by a repose and silence in perfect harmony with it. The murmur of an indistinct echo, produced by a small but picturesque water-fall in the vale beneath, the tinkling of a bell, or the barking of a dog, reverberated from rock to rock, are all the sounds that intrude on this abode of contemplation.

Declining



Declining from the castle by a descent almost perpendicular, we enter the village by a turnpike. From the bridge, the water-fall may be discerned, though indistinctly : there is a passage to it through a farm near the turnpike, from whence we crossed a small wooden bridge over the brook, and immediately ascended to the left, where the falls of Combhay brook may be perfectly seen.

Inconsiderable as these falls will certainly appear to the *northern* tourist, they have peculiar beauties in the eye of an artist ; forming a number of rills, they rush over the rocks with impetuosity, and break into elegant and broad masses. The rocks that separate their courses, are mantled luxuriantly with moss and sedge, and contribute to complete a study highly deserving of the pencil. From the top to the level of the pool beneath, the distance may be about fifteen feet.

The effect is heightened by a wooden bridge over this pool, and the ash-trees that surround it. The most picturesque, or even poetical imagination,

imagination, could neither add nor alter here without injury. The annexed view was taken from the lowest ground, opposite the falls.

From this bewitching scene we returned over the bridge to the village, close at the back of which a more considerable stream forces its channel. Abundance of small rural studies might be found in the vicinity of this spot. We re-ascended the hill, which we learnt from the rustics was called *Midford-cliff*, and reached Bath, after a pleasant walk of eight miles.

Combe or *Combe Monkton* is a vicarage three miles south of Bath, divided by the rivulet rising at Midford, from the first parish in Wiltshire.

The village stands at the bottom of a hill, called *Combe-down*, whence the largest quantity of Bath stone is extracted. The vale here is narrow, and watered by the above-mentioned stream, which having turned the corn-mill,

mill, empties itself into the Avon. The woods here are beautiful, and at the entrance of the village, is an elegant house delightfully placed, called *Combe-grove*, the property of Mr. Simpson. The summit of the down was rough and barren, till Mr. Allen planted amongst the stone quarries large groves of firs for the purpose of ornamenting it.—Here is a pretty range of small houses, originally designed for the workmen in the quarries, but now let out to invalids who resort to this place, on account of the salubrity of the air.

Claverton is seated on the border of a winding vale at the edge of the Avon, three miles east from Bath. The hill that unites it with Bath, is called *Claverton-down*, and is very high, except where it joins *Combe-down*. From the summit there is a beautiful view, and as it is in that part a smooth plain finely turfed, it is a very favorite airing. Mr. Allen erected here the shell of a castle, which, with the plantation about it, forms an object seen a great way off. A turnpike road crosses this down, and the quantity of wood here, and

the manner in which it is disposed, do honor to Mr. Allen's liberality and taste.

The manor-house adjoins the church, and is a noble fabric, to which there is an ascent of thirty steps. It was here, that in the civil war, a party of gentlemen were sitting, when a cannon ball passed through the room, and lodged in the breast of the chimney, without hurting any one of them.

Weston is a village irregular and straggling, near half a mile in length, and pleasantly situated : the lands hereabouts are mostly pasture, but there is some wood.

Great part of Lansdown lies in this parish, and the church abounds with monuments, as miscellaneous as possible ; this being, if we might be allowed so ludicrous an expression, the *fashionable* burial-place of the temporary inhabitants of Bath.

Lansdown and Claverton were a few years ago almost inaccessible ; but the roads are now perfectly

perfectly commodious. From one spot on the former, may be seen great part of the counties of Somerset, Wilts, Worcester, Gloucester and Monmouth, and, with a friendly atmosphere, the eye may penetrate into Wales. The downs themselves afford fine fore-grounds for a painter.

The races have been removed from Claverton-down to Lansdown, and are now, by the exertions of Mr. Chichester, kept up with great vigor. The herbage on Lansdown is accounted the most delicate for fattening sheep of any in the west of England; and more are fed here, than on any of the adjacent hills.

There is on Lansdown a monument erected, in 1720, by George Lord Lansdown, to the memory of Sir Beville Granville, who was slain here on the 5th of July, 1643, in a battle between the king's, and the parliament's forces. In this action, the king's horse, commanded by the marquis of Hertford, received so violent a shock, that out of two thousand, not six hundred were left alive. The marquis, nevertheless, drove Sir William Waller, who commanded

commanded the parliament's forces, from his strong post, and forced him to return into Bath.

The monument is of free stone, with the figure of a griffin on its summit, and a tablet on the north and south sides, with very full inscriptions, which may be found at length in Mr. Collinson's elaborate work.

On the east are the king's arms, and those of Granville, and on the west are trophies of war. The monument stands within a square of twenty-one feet, and near it are remains, as is supposed, of a Saxon fortification.

At no great distance, are the places where Waller's army intrenched themselves, and some vestiges of the intrenchments may still be traced.

The spot where the king's army were encamped, is to the east of the monument.

A few barrows are to be seen on Lansdown, and to the south of the monument is a small plantation

plantation of wood, called *North-Stoke brow*, from whence there is a view of Bath and Bristol, with the river Avon in all its windings, as far as, and even beyond Bristol ; its junction with the Severn is very conspicuous, as are the Monmouthshire hills. In a clear day, the view from this spot is enchanting, and one of the most extensive in this part of England. The Blorench and Sugar-loaf mountains, near Abergavenny, may be distinctly seen, though at a distance of forty miles in a right line from Lansdown. When the sun is declining behind the Welch mountains, in a fine evening in July, nothing can be more charming than this view. Any little circumstances that are less picturesque than they should be when seen under the glare of a mid-day light, are then softened by the evening tints, and mellowed into harmony.

On the top of Lansdown, near the monument of Sir Beville Granville, are boundaries between the counties of Gloucester and Somerset ; from hence they continue westward down to Swinford-mill ; and on the northern bank

bank of the Avon, till it reaches the Severn.

To the eastward, the boundaries pass by Fry's-farm and Catherine-mill, and continue across the brook of the same name for a considerable distance: they then meet the fosse-way in Wiltshire, where the three counties form a conjunction.

The downs near Bath abound with free stone, the use of which is general, not only in Bath and Bristol, but in all parts of the west of England, to which it can be conveyed by water.—The consumption of it in Bristol has increased very much of late, as it may be carried thither every tide, and may be shipped at Bristol at a trifling expence.

Bath-Easton is a parish, situated two miles eastward of the city of Bath. It is very populous, and comprises a large village. On the south-east, this parish is divided from Bath-Hampton, by the Avon, which, fringed with willows, forms an easy bend through a range of

of fine rich meads, called *Arno's Vale*, extending from Bath Ford to the city. The houses on the turnpike-road overlook this beautiful valley, with the village of Hampton, unbosomed in trees on the opposite banks of the Avon, and over-hung by the lofty ridge of Hampton-down, whereon plantations of firs, and patches of rugged rocks, are contrasted with each other.

On the north-west side of the village, *Salisbury hill* rises with a steep ascent from behind the houses, to the height of nearly six hundred feet from the river. About mid-way up the hill, hangs a beautiful grove, which, with the naked summit towering behind it, forms a fine picturesque object.

At a little distance from the village, and situated on a rising ground, commanding one of the richest prospects imaginable, watered by the Avon, and bounded by majestic hills and romantic rocks, stands *Bath-Easton villa*, the seat of Sir John Riggs Miller. A very beautiful monument, executed by Bacon, has been

been erected to the memory of Lady Miller, the accomplished and deplored mistress of this elegant mansion, in the abbey-church, Bath.

Bath-Ford, so called from its having a ford over the Avon, is a considerable parish, three miles west of Bath, and in the high road to Bath through the Devizes.

The situation of the town is extremely pleasant, being on the declivity of a bold hill called *Farley-down*, which rises behind it near seven hundred feet, and is so variegated with wild rocks, stone quarries and irregularities, as to form a charming landscape. To the south, and within a mile on the opposite side of a beautiful valley, through which the Avon winds, rise in great magnificence *Hampton cliffs*, cloathed with hanging woods, and crowned with rude rocks. To the west and north-west, an enchanting scene is formed by part of the city, the villages of Bath-Easton and Hampton, and the rich vale between.

Here

Here is an elegant house of Bath stone, the residence of Mr. Wiltshire.

Bath-Hampton is a small parish, two miles east of Bath, pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, on the south-east bank of the Avon. The river divides the village from that of Bath Easton. It is surrounded on three sides by hills, and on the west has a very grand view of the city. Here is a mill on the river, and a pretty water-fall from the high weir. Part of the hill which rises south-east is called *Hampton down*: the eastern part, called *the Cliffs*, is more than six hundred feet above the river, and, from its excessive steepness, almost inaccessible. Its brow is finely contrasted by rugged projecting rocks and quarries, and by plantations of firs, beneath which, fine hanging coppice woods extend almost to the bottom. From this elevated spot the prospects are truly romantic and beautifully diversified. On the north and north-east, the village of Bath-Easton, and its noble back-ground of hills,

T the

the fine vale which extends between Colerne and Box, through which the London road winds, and which is divided into beautiful inclosures, and the village of Bath-Ford, with the shapeless brow of Farley-down hanging over it, are commanded by this eminence. To the east, immediately under the eye, is the steep, rugged descent. At the bottom is a continuation of the vale, intersected by hedge-rows, and washed by the river Avon. On the opposite side of this vale, Farley-down rises to an immense height. This hill is in form of an amphitheatre; the lower part is cultivated enclosures; the middle, stone quarries; and the north-eastern point is a rough cliff crowned with an ancient tumulus, and clumps of firs, forming a noble contrast with the lower scenery. To the right, the vale winds southward, till it is lost to the eye between the hills of Claverton and Monkton Farley. Hampton-down is agreeably ornamented with clumps of firs, which harmonize here better than in many other spots, where they are in abundance.

Bath-

Bath-Wick can hardly now be separated, even in idea, from Bath itself, being but a quarter of a mile from the New Bridge. It is a pleasant spot, much resorted to by the tradesmen of Bath, as Islington is by the Londoners, for the purpose of enjoying the evening in summer, by spending it in a little garden and summer-house. The situation in winter is said to be damp and foggy; it is frequently under water by the overflowing of the Avon; and, when the wind is westerly, it is much annoyed by the city smoke.

Freshford is a parish and village four miles south of Bath, seated on a hill very romantic, and applicable to the purpose of the pencil.

Kelverton, Kelweston, or, as it is pronounced, Kelston, is a small parish three miles and a half north-west from Bath, on the northern bank of the Avon, and in the upper turnpike road from Bath to Bristol, by King-road. Nothing can be imagined more beautiful than this road, as it is formed on a waving terrace, and commands on both sides

sides a very rich prospect. On the left is a vale through which the Avon winds, edged by the villages of Newton, Twiverton, and Corston, with a high range of cultivated hills behind them. On the left, the towering heights of Lansdown rise immediately from the road. Combe-brook has its source under this part of Lansdown, and empties itself into the Avon a little lower.

In the east of Kelston parish is a hill called *Henstridge hill*, or *Kelston round hill*. It is very high, and is singular in its appearance, from a circumstance not pleasing to the eye of a landscape painter, its top terminating with a plantation of firs, inclosed by a circular wall; but the prospect atones for this seeming blemish; and, if Henstridge hill is not the most agreeable object in the county, it presents one of the first prospects in it. Marlborough forest is seen in the east, Salisbury plain, and part of Dorsetshire, towards the south; the Mendip hills in the west; and, on the north-west the Bristol channel, the coast of Wales, part of Monmouthshire, and

and the forest of Devon. Bath and Bristol, with all their accompaniments, are close in view.

Kelston is dignified, as having been the property of the family of Harington, in whose possession the manor continued till a few years since, when it was sold to the late Sir Cæsar Hawkins, whose grandson is the present proprietor.

The old manor-house which had been built about 1587, after a design of Barozzi of Vignola, was pulled down upwards of twenty years ago by Sir Cæsar Hawkins, who erected the present elegant mansion. It is situated on a rising ground, and commands, if not a very grand, yet a very extensive and finely variegated prospect. The meanderings of the Avon are here displayed to great advantage, and Bath makes altogether a beautiful object: fine lawns and hanging woods give the surrounding grounds a softness of outline and of tints well adapted for copying.

Langridge

Langridge is a small parish on the eastern declivity of Lansdown hill, three miles from Bath, and overlooking a very rich vale. The old manor-house is now reduced to a farmhouse, and presents a singular appearance, having in one part an old square tower, and in another a gothic window.

North Stoke is a place four miles north-west of Bath, and much resorted to for the sake of the beautiful prospect, from a point of land we have before mentioned, called North-Stoke brow.

St. Catharine's is one of the most beautiful villages in the neighbourhood of Bath; it is two miles out of the London road, through Bath Easton, and four from the city itself. Mr. Collinson thus describes it: 'The village stands on the declivity of a steep hill called *Holt Down*, facing the east, and covered with wood disposed in the most picturesque manner. A small rivulet winds through the vale, beneath which is composed of rich verdant meadows; and on its back rises

rises another hill of about equal height, skirted with wood. The road hither, from Bath-Easton, which is almost the only way to get to the village, is through dark lanes, overhung with trees and hedges, and, in many places, very steep and rocky. The precipitous height of Holt-down on the right, and the prospect on the left of a rich varied country, stretching to the Wiltshire hills; and the wildness and silent gloominess of the scenery around, render this solitary track, which is little visited by the traveller, pleasing and delightful.'

This sequestered spot has its humble church, at the west end of which is a square tower with battlements.

Charlcombe is one mile and a half north-east of Bath, and is a village of only nine houses and a church, small, but very ancient, and well worth an antiquary's notice. The situation of this diminutive parish is under Lansdown: its views are not extensive, but very pretty. It is almost surrounded with hills

hills adorned with woods and coppices. Visiting the church, our minds were forcibly struck on reading an inscription, pointing out the place of interment of the right honourable lady Barbara Montague, daughter of George earl of Halifax. The idea of *title*, when connected with such a spot as this, would be an incongruity, did it not lead us to contemplate that equality to which all return, when we find those, whom birth and fortune buoy up above the common level of mankind, seeking their last repose in the obscurity of Charlcombe.

Swainswick, or, as in compliment to king Bladud, and his pigs, it is generally called *Swineswick*, is a pretty village three miles north-east of Bath, with a church.

Wolley is a parish consisting only of a few straggling houses, two miles north-east from the city of Bath, in the valley between Lansdown and Holt-down. Here is a pleasing variety of swells and recesses; and the vale is a range of rich meadows, watered by a small stream.

stream, on which are Mr. Worgan's gunpowder mills. They form a very picturesque object, being almost surrounded with wood. The church is elegant and modern, rebuilt at the sole expence of one lady.

Widcombe and *Lyncombe*, are two parishes consolidated into one, containing, as Mr. Collinson says, though not of large extent, six hundred houses, and nearly four thousand inhabitants.

The Avon divides it from Bath ; but there is a very handsome stone bridge over it, built at the expence of the corporation of Bath, in 1754. There are in this parish several very elegant villas, commanding rich prospects.

The church stands under a ridge of a perpendicular rocky hill, and near it is a handsome house, built by the late Mr. Bennett.

Lyncombe is in a deep valley very romantic and various. Two mineral springs have been discovered here. Here is a house of entertainment,

ertainment, much frequented by the visitors to Bath, called *King James's Palace*, because James II. is said to have concealed himself here, after his abdication.

A part of Widcombe is called, from its concavity, *Hollow-way*, and immediately over this and part of Claverton-street, hangs *Beechen-cliff*, covered with a beautiful coppice-wood. The hill is more than four hundred feet above the surface of the Avon, and affords from its summit, a very singular view of the city and the vale from Bath-Ford to Kelston. The common water for the use of the city of Bath, is supplied from nearly this spot.

In this parish is situated one of the greatest ornaments of the vicinity of Bath, the stately mansion of *Prior-park*. The house stands on a terrace, about one hundred feet below the summit of Combe-down, and four hundred feet above the city of Bath, from which it is a mile and half distant, in a south-eastern direction.

This



Landscape Drawn & Aquaretted by J. Hassell.

Figures by J. Jackson.

BATH, from the private Road leading to Prior Park.

This beautiful and superb seat was, as is known to every body, built by the celebrated Mr. Allen : he had engaged his interests in the quarries near Bath, and wishing to recommend the stone to general use, by vending it at a low rate, and bringing it into notice, he was one of those who offered to contract for the buildings then projected at Greenwich-hospital. He was here opposed by Colin Campbell, who, as Mr. Wood relates, unfortunately mistaking two samples, one of Portland, the other of Bath-stone, while he was descanting on the superiority of the former, and endeavouring to prove it ; by inadvertently producing that he meant to condemn, gave the committee so much light into the business of the mason, that though they adopted the Portland stone, they got the work done three and thirty per cent. cheaper than it otherwise would have been.

This disappointment, and an increasing desire to shew the world, that the general degrading opinion was ill founded, induced Mr. Allen to build a dwelling-house and offices for

for himself, of this material, that should prove what it could do ; and accordingly a plan was made, and the spot chosen on his estate, which, from its having been an appendage of the priory, still retained its romantic name.

The classic taste of Mr. Wood was never more fitly employed, or more happily exerted, than when thus indulged in all its luxuriance, by the wealth and liberality of Mr. Allen. The building consists of a principal front, nearly one hundred and fifty feet in length, with two pavilions, and two wings of offices, united with the centre by arcades, the whole forming a curved line of near one thousand feet. The centre itself consists of three parts, the middle one of which is adorned with a projecting portico, reputed the most nicely correct of any in the kingdom. The columns of the portico are of the Corinthian order, and it is finished at top with an entire pediment and cornice ; the other two thirds of the front terminate at top with a balustrade. The height of the building contains a basement, a prin-

a principal and an upper story, and in length, fifteen windows. The Corinthian hall, the chapel, which is of the Ionic order, and a Corinthian gallery extending over the hall, and the rooms on each side of it, are all finished with stone. Whoever wishes for an accurate and scientific account of this magnificent building, will find it in Mr. Wood's *Essay towards a description of Bath.*

The gardens are adorned with a variety of stone-work, particularly a statue placed at the head of a water-fall, representing Moses striking the rock. At the bottom of the lawn, before the house, is a piece of water, and a Palladian bridge of stone.

The natural beauties of these grounds are great, and they have been successfully aided by art. The views are picturesque, and the scenery is often romantic.

The whole of this estate descended from Mr. Allen to his niece, the lady of Bishop Warburton, and is now, in consequence of her second

second marriage, occupied by the Rev. Martin Stafford Smith.

It was from the new road made by Mr. Allen to Combe-down, that the annexed view of Bath was taken.

Before we quit this spot, let us intreat the forgiveness of our readers, for having omitted to remark, that the present improved state of the roads all round Bath, has superseded the use of the machine invented by Mr. Allen, for the safe conveyance of masses of stone, &c.

Wellow is a large parish, five miles southwest of Bath, and situated in a champain country, surrounded with hills finely wooded. This place has been eminently fertile in Roman antiquities. Its neighbour, *Camerton*, has nothing remarkable in it but a handsome house and plantations, near the church, the residence of James Stephens, esq.

Combe-bay is beautifully situated, and has a neat modern church, with an old tower.

Dunkerton,

Dunkerton, Ingliscombe, Kinton-Charterhouse, Norton St. Philip's, and several other villages in the neighbourhood, join in the beautiful chorus of Somersetshire landscape; but, individually, are of little importance.

SECTION III.

THERE are two roads from Bath to Bristol: the one, called *the higher* road, leads by Bitton, through Kingswood; that called *the lower*, goes by Twiverton and Keynsham. The higher road is nearer by two miles; but the lower is in general preferred by travellers, as being less incommoded by carts and colliers.

Under Holloway, we proceed by the banks of the Avon, till we reach the village of Twiverton, only two miles distant from Bath. On the right, and on the other side of the river, is a worsted and cotton manufactory; below this, are the brafs and wire mills, and here is a lock made to communicate again with the river Avon.

Twiverton

Twiverton is prettily sheltered by gentle eminences. The hills hereabout are of a very rocky texture, and are said to abound in iron ore. Red ochre is frequently to be seen in the excavations.

The valley, through which the Avon runs in this part, amply atones, by its richness, for the stony barrenness of the hills. It curves in broad elegant forms, and the river here takes a beautiful serpentine direction.

The new bridge of one arch, is universally admired, and in its construction, resembles that of the well-known Pont \hat{y} Pridd, in Glamorganshire. Part of it broke down by an accident a few years since ; but it has been repaired and perfected. Exclusive of that at Keynsham, this is the only bridge, between Bath and Bristol, that opens a passage from the higher to the lower road.

Till we reach the five-mile stone, the road is level, and shews little variety of prospect : we then see Kelston, the seat of the late Sir Cæsar

Hawkins. As we have before described this charming place, we shall only say, that here it is seen to great advantage, and with its accompaniments of wood and lawns, judiciously interpersed, makes not only a picturesque, but a magnificent appearance.

About the four mile stone, the Wells road from Bath branches off to the left. Ascending the hill, we have an opening of the valley beneath, as extensive, but destitute of those features that recommend landscape to the pencil. The principal object is the weir, which lies close under the hill, and extends across the river. The innumerable eddies, and the rage of the foam, serve in some measure as a contrast to the quiescent sameness of the view.

Having gained the summit of the hill, we reach Salford, an inconsiderable village. The road is now pent up between hedge-rows, affording little to attract attention, except the opposite hills, that join Lansdown, and the village and church of Bitton at its foot, by which the Avon meanders. This, together with

with the quantity of wood surrounding the village, form an agreeable *coup d'œil*.

Two miles farther, we enter Keynsham, a town formerly of some note. It is situated six miles west of Bath, on the south bank of the Avon, and on the west bank of the river, or rather rivulet Chew, which here loses itself in the Avon. The church is large ; and its lofty tower may be seen above the surrounding hills at a great distance. Here was a priory of regular canons, founded by the earl of Gloucester, about 1170. A handsome stone-bridge, of fifteen arches, stretches across the Avon here, and joins Somersetshire to Gloucestershire. Near the bridge, are the wire mills, belonging to the brass and wire company of Bristol, who have a monopoly of all such works on this river between Bath and Bristol. Keynsham has a weekly market, and two fairs are held in March, the other in August. A chief article of trade here is malting.

The river Chew is celebrated, in its neighbourhood, for producing great numbers of small

small eels, which it is the custom to boil, and make into cakes: the spring of the year is the season for them; they have a peculiar flavor, and are accounted a great dainty in the sister cities.

Snake-stones are very commonly found about Keynsham. The superstitious of the country are of opinion, that they were the miraculous production of a British virgin, Keina, who thus petrified living serpents. To the less credulous, it may be sufficient to observe, that the town is built on a rock, abounding in fossil and spar.

At Stantonbury, a village at no great distance from Keynsham, are the remains of a camp, situated on the top of a hill, and reputed to contain near thirty acres of ground.

Descending from Keynsham, we climb another hill, on the left of which, the valley and the river present themselves: we then again lose sight of them, and sink into the road, which lies between hedges, till we reach Brislington,

Brislington, a village two miles south-east of Bristol.

We were now warned of our approach to this city, by blazing furnaces, and glass-houses, and by meeting droves of over-burthened coal-horses, &c. The coal-mines here are very numerous and productive; the veins are covered with a kind of shell or crust, of a black and stony substance, called Wark, which splits like slate, but is still more frangible. On dividing it, there is frequently found the print of a fern leaf, as if engraved, and on the corresponding surface, a protuberant figure, by which the impression is made.

On the right, as we leave Brislington, the valley opens, and acquires the name of *Arno's vale*; by what right is not easy to conjecture, as it contains nothing but smoking brick-kilns and footy furnaces. We now again fall in with the Avon, which bears us company till we enter

Bristol.—The name of this city is a corruption of that of Brightstow, which was bestowed

bestowed on it by the Saxons, and signifies a celebrated place. By the Britons it is said to have been called Caer-Oder-Nant-Vadon, or the city of Odera, in Badon valley. It is mentioned so early as the beginning of the eleventh century, as having been the place whence Harold set sail for the conquest of Wales. In the reign of William Rufus it was the seat of war, in the rebellion of the bishop of Constance, and was then fortified by an inner wall, part of which is supposed still to be visible. In the reign of Stephen, Robert, brother to the empress Maud, built a castle here; the ditch is at this day existing, but the fabric was levelled by Oliver Cromwell, and the scite of it is now laid out in streets. King Stephen was sent hither a prisoner after his defeat at Lincoln; but Robert, the illegitimate son of Henry I. being in captivity with the opposite party, an exchange was agreed on, which procured the king his liberty.

Cromwell cannonaded the city from Brandon hill, and, with his wonted sanctity, converted

verted the abbey into stabling for his troops, mutilating and destroying whatever had a claim to respect from its office or antiquity. While the civil commotions lasted, Bristol was alternately possessed by the king's and parliament's forces.

The city of Bristol may vie with most in England, for beauty as well as convenience of situation. It lies in a valley of an uneven surface, encompassed with eminences of various heights and forms. The air, in its natural state is remarkably pure ; but the smoke issuing from the brass-works, glass-houses, &c. keeps the town in an almost impenetrable obscurity. As it stands on seven hills, and is intersected by the Avon, Bristol has been frequently compared to ancient Rome and its Tiber. On the north side, the houses rise above each other to a considerable height, and entirely overlook the lower part of the city. The most elevated point is that of Kingsdown ; and of the steepness here, some idea may be formed from the flight of steps which have been hewn in the hill to facilitate the ascent.

Bristol

Bristol stands in the two counties of Gloucester and Somerset, and is also a county of itself, having been made so by Edward III. who established a wool-manufactory here. The river Avon, which here joins the Froome, divides the counties. The shores abound with convenient quays and wharfs, far superior to any on the Thames, wet and dry docks, and a great number of dock-yards. The river, rapid in its course, and rising to the height of forty feet, brings ships, of a thousand tons burthen, up to Bristol bridge. The business of ship-building is carried on here with very great success.

The bridge, distinguished by the name of Bristol bridge, is a plain, yet elegant structure of three arches, with a stone balustrade on each side, about seven feet high, and raised foot-paths chained in. The avenues leading to this bridge have been lately much improved, and are daily mending.

Over the river Froome there are two bridges, the one, called the Draw-bridge, leads to the center

center of the city, and that at the extremity of the wharfs, called the Stone-bridge, communicates with the lower parts towards St. James's.

In commercial importance, Bristol owns no superior in Great Britain excepting London.—The merchants here freight ships to every part of the globe; and their opulence sets them on an equality with any traders in Europe. The idea of total occupation in trade, which must strike every mind, on beholding a city, in which from twenty to thirty sugar-houses, and abundance of sulphur, turpentine, vitriol, and coal-works, brass and iron foundries, distilleries, glass-houses, and manufactories of woollen stuffs, and china, are almost incessantly at work, is agreeably corrected by the great encouragement and success literature, and the polite arts, meet with in this emporium of the west, and the very liberal urbanity with which persons of all nations are encouraged to settle here, and become free of the city. Luxury, in her passage through our island, has not forgotten

to visit Bristol ; but she has not been able to expel industry. The gentry, merchants, and traders, have very elegant town and country houses, and public amusements, as frequent, and as various, as those of the metropolis. A particular degree of civility and attention is remarkable in the shop-keepers, and they are in general free from the charge of extortion.

The city is governed by a mayor, who, before the dispute with the colonies, had an annual allowance of fifteen hundred pounds to support his dignity ; at present it is reduced to one thousand : during his mayoralty, this officer is rarely seen in the streets but in his carriage. The corporation is composed of twelve aldermen, all justices of the peace, two sheriffs, who have each four hundred pounds for the discharge of the office, twenty-eight common council-men, a town clerk and his deputy, a chamberlain and vice-chamberlain, clerks of the court of conscience, under-sheriff, sword-bearer, &c. &c.

The principal buildings are the Cathedral, or collegiate church, St. Mary Redcliffe, the Exchange, the Custom-house, the Council-house, the Guildhall, the Post-office, the Merchants', the Coopers', and the Merchant-taylors' hall, the Theatre, and the Assembly rooms.

The cathedral is situated on the brow of a gentle ascent, and on the west side of a plot of ground, called College-green. The building formerly extended considerably, both to the north and south ; but Cromwell's artillery, on Brandon-hill, abridged it at both ends most cruelly. The architecture is for the most part Gothic, but with a slight intermixture of the Saxon. Its external appearance is heavy and confused. The tower is low, and not unlike that of Winchester. The length of the church is one hundred and seventy-five feet, and the height to the summit of the tower, one hundred and thirty. The windows are of painted glass, and the inside of the church is decorated with a few monuments : that of Robert Fitzharding, mayor of Bristol, and who, in the twelfth century,

ry, founded the monastery here, is near the door.

The religious foundation was originally dedicated to St. Augustine, and by Henry II. was converted into an abbey. After the dissolution, Henry VIII. made it a cathedral, called it that of the Holy Trinity, and placed in it a dean, six prebendaries, and other ecclesiastical officers.

To the west of the cathedral, there remains a Gothic arched gateway, leading from the upper to the lower green. On each side, are four statues of kings, and over the gate on the north side, is the following inscription :

‘ Rex Henricus secundus et Dominus
 ‘ Robertus filius Hardini, filii Regis Daciæ,
 ‘ hujus monasterii primi fundatores exti-
 ‘ terunt.’

King Henry II. and Lord Robert, son of Harding, son of the king of Denmark, were the first founders of this monastery.

The

The church of St. Mary Redcliffe is universally esteemed the finest parochial church in the kingdom. It stands without the walls of the city, and in the county of Somerset. The ascent to it is by a grand flight of stone steps, and the whole building exhibits the perfection of Gothic architecture. The tower is singular but elegant, and nearly two hundred feet high. The church has a large and excellent organ, and the altar-piece is a painting by Hogarth, undoubtedly his *chef-d'œuvre* in a style his genius was not formed for. The subject is the rolling the stone from the sepulchre. The figures have energy, the coloring is clear and brilliant; the composition is judicious, and the *chiaro oscuro* has been closely attended to.

Among the monuments, is one for William Cannings, the founder of this church, temp. Hen. VI. and another for Sir William Penn, Knt. Vice-admiral of England, and father of William Penn, the quaker, who was a native of Bristol.

There

There are in Bristol no fewer than eighteen parish churches: the most remarkable of them, besides those we have described, are St. Stephen's, admired for the beauty of its tower; All Saints, noticed for its resemblance to Bow church, London; and the Temple church, the tower of which is many degrees out of the perpendicular, and which, according to Camden, when the bells are rung, moves as he expresses it, '*huc et illuc*,' this way and that. On the side of the green opposite to the cathedral, is the church of St. Mark, now called the Mayor's chapel.

The Exchange is situated in Corn-street, and was opened in 1743, after fifty thousand pounds had been expended in the purchase of ground, and erection of it. The front is one hundred and ten feet in extent, and the depth is one hundred and forty-eight. It is capable of containing fifteen hundred persons. Before the Exchange, and on the Tolsey, are some of the old brafs pillars used for transacting business before this edifice was built.

The

The Council-house is a stone building erected in 1701. Over the chimney, in the room where the corporation meet, there is a whole length portrait, by Vandyke, said to be that of an earl of Pembroke, a present to the city of Bristol.

In the Guildhall, the assizes and sessions, and the mayor's and sheriffs' courts are held. Adjoining to it is a lofty room called St. George's chapel, in which the city officers are chosen.

The theatre is in King-street. The performers are those of Bath, and they have plays every Monday night.

The assembly-room, in Prince's-street, is a lofty stone building, about ninety feet in length. It has a master of the ceremonies, distinct from that of the hot-wells. Over the door is this inscription, ' Curas Cytherea tollit.'

The

The charitable institutions of Bristol reflect the utmost honor on the city for their number and variety. The former are said to exceed the parishes in number, and the latter include almost all the necessities of infancy and age.

Queen-square is decorated with an equestrian statue of King William III.

A survey of the circumference of this city was made about sixty years ago, and it was then calculated at seven miles. Since that time it has increased nearly one third, besides the addition of many houses, at short distances, all round the town. The liberties extend from Lawford's gate down to the Rownham passage.

A spirit of emulation and improvement has pervaded Bristol within these few years, and contributed much to the beauty of its appearance. In that part towards Clifton it bids fair to rival Bath.

Adjoining



Approach to the Holwell House.

Adjoining Park-street is a stone house belonging to Mr. Tyndale. It has three fronts, and overlooks the principal parts of the city, the river, and the adjacent country, the vale of Ashton and Dundry hill and tower, which in the morning, and at sun set, have a very remarkable effect. This group of scenery possesses no small degree of beauty: the valley is well wooded, and breaks into forms pleasingly irregular. Close under the hill passes the Avon, and, at the turn of the tide, presents the ships floating up. The greatest objection to this view is the long line of the hill of Dundry.

A purchase has recently been made of Mr. Tyndale's park for the purpose of building, and a number of labourers were, when we visited it, preparing the ground.

The road to the Hot-wells leads by the bottom of Brandon-hill, on the left of which the Avon shapes its course. A short distance farther, the river is concealed from sight by a

row of houses to the left, called the Hot-well road, till we reach Dowry-square, a plain, but beautiful situation, at the foot of Clifton-hill.

On the left of the Hot-well road a crescent is now building, which will, when completed, make a handsome appearance.

Beyond Dowry-square, the road leads by the Old and New Rooms, and down to the ferry, at the Rownham passage, where again the Avon accompanies the path, and remains with us till we reach the Hot-well house.

The Parade, leading to the Hot-well house, is sheltered on each side by trees, and has, of late, received several additions. It wants breadth, but is kept in excellent order. The road from the Rooms to the Wells has been also much improved; and, instead of a few paltry huts that skirted this avenue, there are now building some very handsome stone houses.

The

Saint Vincent's Brook.



The Well-house is situated at the foot of the romantic rocks of St. Vincent, and under the steep crags of Clifton, and obtrudes itself several feet into the Avon. It has a good effect when viewed from almost any point ; and, for a building of the sort, may be termed picturesque. Its gable ends are converted into chimnies. The crescent that extends towards what is called the Rock-house, varies the forms of this composition very happily, and it is backed by abrupt rocks, well covered with verdure, and affording an agreeable repose for the eye. The Well-house harmonises with this scene, and prevents the stupendous cliffs from bursting on the sight at an improper distance, and thereby lessening their picturesque effect. Passing under the piazza, and through the passage of the house, the view is grand, even to a degree of awfulness. Some violent effort of nature appears to have rent the solid rock to form a bed for the river Avon, which rolls in a tremendous chasm for more than two miles.

The

The water of the Hot-well, commonly known by the name of Bristol water, issues out of a rock on the north side of the river Avon, and when first drawn, is warm and of a whitish color; but this hue it loses as it cools. Bubbles rise in it on its first exposure to the air; the taste is very soft and milky, but it leaves a peculiar stiptic sensation on the palate. The elasticity of the air with which it is impregnated, makes it necessary to drink it quickly. An impregnation of lime, sulphur, nitre, and iron, with the addition of an alkaline quality, is discovered in this water by the usual chemical process. It dissolves sal-ammoniac with a considerable effervescence. Oil of tartar will make it effervesce, and increases the milky appearance, which, in going off, leaves a light earthy precipitate. Dissolved soap curdles it, and covers the surface with a greasy substance, the water below at the same time becoming turbid. Solution of silver will produce an inky appearance in the water. A gallon of water contains about thirty-four grains

grains of a light grey brackish sediment, with a latent bitterness, perceptible in the throat. This sediment ferments with acids, and is turned green by syrup of violets.

Amongst the writers who have treated of the Bristol water, Dr. Keir, Dr. Higgins, and Dr. Randolph, are the most conspicuous. The degree of heat by Fahrenheit's thermometer is judged to be seventy-six.

Those who resort hither for health, drink the water early in the morning, and about five in the evening, using gentle exercise after it. A less quantity is taken at first than afterwards, and it must be persevered in daily : it may be drank at meals, and agrees well with wine and malt liquors ; but, in common with most other means of restoring or preserving health, it is highly inimical to all spirituous liquors.

The effects of first taking this water are unpleasant, and far from encouraging, unless the patient is aware that they are to be considered

sidered as indications that it agrees and will produce benefit. The symptoms are nearly those of intoxication, but in a few days they cease to be troublesome.

This water is said to have been discovered by some sailors, who coming from long voyages, much afflicted with the scurvy, as they passed from King-road to Bristol, here drank and washed, and found relief. For all eruptions of this nature, for obstructions, for internal inflammation, for consumptive habits, and sometimes even in scrophulous and cancerous diseases, this water has been found a remedy, if applied to in an early stage of the disorder ; and in chronic disorders it has afforded great relief.

The wells have the necessary attendant of such a place, gaiety. The resort to them is great, and during the summer months, a band of music attends every morning. Here is a master of the ceremonies, who conducts the public balls and breakfasts, which are given twice a week.

The



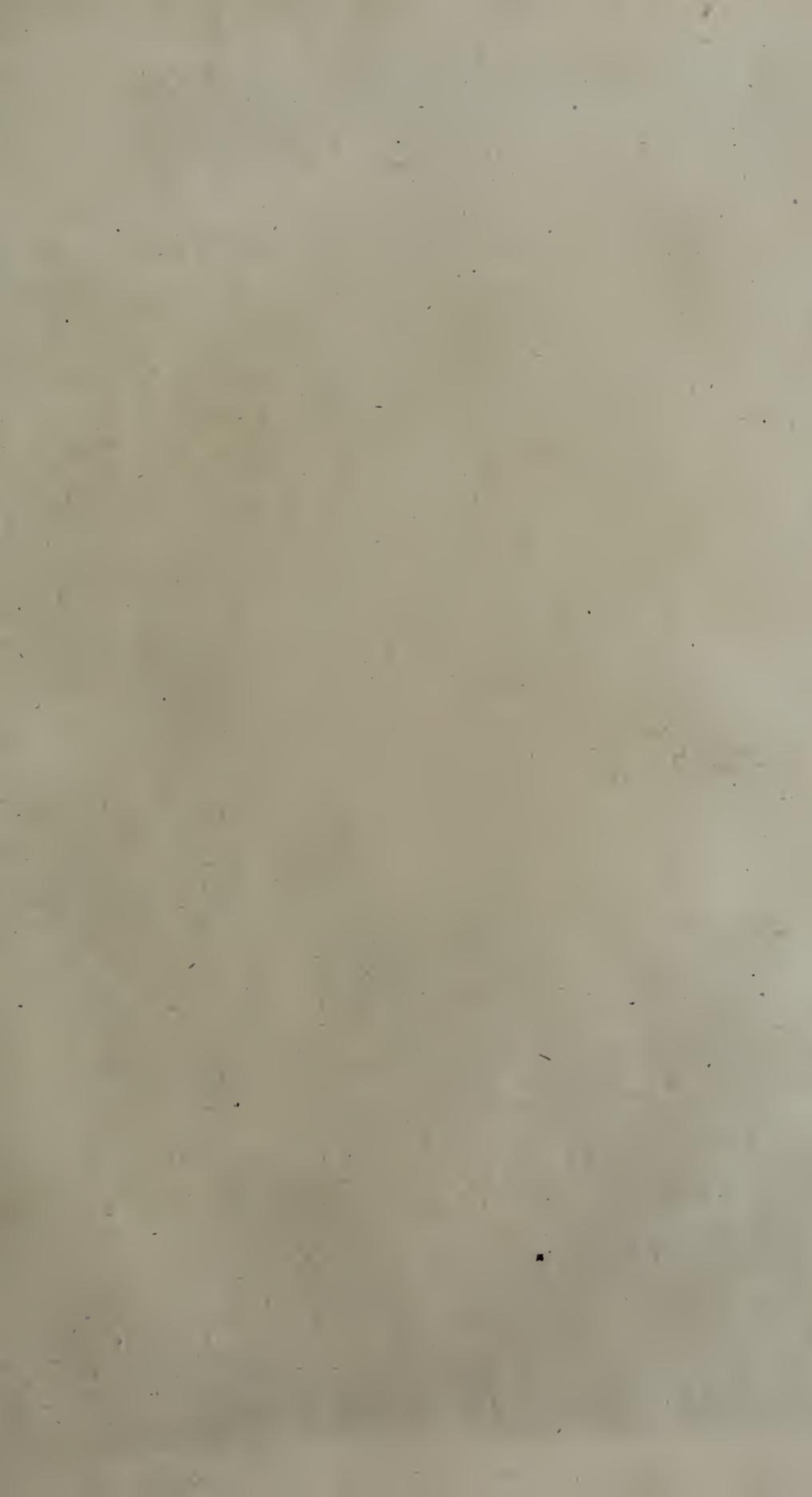
View of St. Vincent's Rock Sc. taken from beyond the River.

The miners of the neighbouring country bring great quantities of fossil to this place, and in the city is of such common use, that it is rare to see a chimney not decorated with pieces of spar. Specimens have been dug of the weight of half a hundred.

The stones, known by the name of Bristol stones, are dug out of St. Vincent's rock, and are of a chrystral kind, as perfectly polished as possible. In general they are clear and destitute of color, but some are of a whitish hue. They are found in the neighbourhood of the iron ore, and when dug, are often fit for the purpose of setting in rings, &c. Many grottos in the vicinity of Bristol are ornamented with them, particularly one at Clifton. They rise in a variety of forms; in some places resembling rose diamonds, and in others table diamonds. Those about Clifton often look like clusters of small brilliants; those of King's Weston are remarkable for the whimsical singularity of forms into which they shoot. In some there seem to be little hairs; in others, white specks; in many, bubbles

bubbles of air or drops of water. Those that are pure and clear, and such as are tinged with color, are hard enough to bear a strong fire without alteration ; such as are imperfect turn white in this trial. They generally adhere to the rock or ore by one end, but sometimes by one side ; some are pointed at both ends, some are pyramidal and sexangular. The small ones are more frequently colored than the larger ones.

The scenery round the Hot-well road, as far as the Rownham ferry, is very various. On the left of the ferry house, an extensive valley presents itself, with the Avon forming an elliptical curve. The opposite side abounds in trees well grouped, between which are seen the vale of Ashton, with Dundry-hill and tower. The hill appears to much greater advantage from this point of view than from Mr. Tyndale's park, the summit being broken by the intervening trees.—Almost opposite to this spot, and on the left, looking towards Bristol, is the famous floating dock, the property of — Wood-





— Woodhouse, esq. a gentleman of considerable taste. His collection of paintings is selected with the truth of a critic, and the judgment of a painter. This floating dock is capable of containing a great number of vessels ; its superior commodiousness has occasioned that at Sea-mills to be neglected and choaked up.

On the opposite side of the Avon, and between the floating-dock and the ferry-house, is that seemingly necessary appendage to all populous towns, a Vauxhall. It is not fair to describe it in its present state, as it is in contemplation to improve it greatly.

A view of the opposite side where the boat lands, affords a subject for the artist ; and though not in the *grand gusto*, may, by the addition of the ferry-boat, and groups of rustic figures and horses, frequently to be seen there, be formed into a good landscape. The eye now looking towards the Hot-well house, will catch another subject ; but here the formal hand of art has destroyed the bolder features of nature, by the interpo-

fition of some huts, stiff in their outline, and mean in their general character. About four o'clock in a summer's afternoon and when the tide is high, one of the broadest, and best effects of light and shade may be seen, by looking from the tree where the ferry-boat lands. On the western side the rocks rise to a considerable height, and are covered with wood almost to the summit ; beneath them the Avon forms a broad sheet, and loses itself imperceptibly behind the rocks of St. Vincent. On the east, the bed of the river is bounded by rocks similar to those on the opposite shore, but not wooded. At the above-mentioned point of time, the sun declining just overlooks the western rocks, and reflects the shadow from the woods beneath it, to about mid-way on the river, where a broad light unites the remaining part of the scene into an harmonious composition.

The village of Clifton is accounted the largest, and one of the most polite of any in the kingdom. The houses are of late become very numerous, and, in general, are large

The Rownham, or *Roman* ferry, is, for a considerable distance, the only communication between Gloucestershire and Somersetshire. There can be no doubt that this place was pitched on by the Romans, for the purpose of passage, as it is fordable at low water, and has a hard bottom. It was besides contiguous to their camp, which lay on the right of Leigh-down, and close to the river.

The stations which the Romans possessed here are not noticed by Camden, though they were very considerable. The phalanx of Ostorius's army, A. D. 50, occupied the heights on each side of the Avon. On the Somersetshire side were two camps, called Bower walls and Stokeleigh. An opposite one was on Clifton-down. These camps, from their great height, commanded an entire view of the chain of Roman stations along the banks of the Severn ; to the westward they had a road, parts of which may still be traced, that led to Walton, by Fayland's inn, at which place, the traces of other camps, contiguous to the Severn, may be discovered.

To

To the north-east they had perfect views of the camps on Blaize-hill and Aldmonsbury ; these posts, and those of Clifton, were rendered by nature the completest ever possessed by that people.

The double ditches are still to be traced on the Rownham-hill ; and the fence, which adjoined each camp, is in many parts perfect.

In the neighbourhood of Bristol, there were many other works of the like nature ; at Portbury, and St. George's near Pill, and at Elberton, Old Abbey, and Cadbury, are evident traces of Roman fortification.

To a painter, and indeed to the nice observer of varied life, the ferry affords an inexhaustible fund of study, the groups of figures and cattle, either waiting the return of the boat, embarking or landing, being infinitely various.

From the Rownham-passage, the river continues its rapid course under the Hot-well parade,

parade, and close by the Well-house, opposite to which are the cotton mills. The annexed sketch was made on the mills side of the river, and a little before we reached them. Clifton might have been introduced, particularly the buildings about Sion-row, but it would have destroyed the composition. The time when the view was taken, and on which the resemblance in a great measure depends, was just before sun-set, when a gleam of light had stolen over the hill, and broke partially on the Well-house.

The mills are happily situated under an immense mass of lime-stone rocks, on the surface of which is a profusion of wood. These rocks lie in broad strata, shelving over one another, and declining gradually down to the bed of the river. A spring of water issues behind the mills, and is conducted to turn them. -It empties itself into the river, at the Hot-well house.

We now pass between these stupendous cliffs, and are delighted with the rude scenery surrounding



Drawn & engraved by J. Green

FRONT VIEW of BRASSTOL HOT WELLS and ST: VINCENT'S ROCKS

rounding us ; the craggy broken surfaces of St. Vincent's, are finely contrasted with the wooded rocks that form the opposite side.

St. Vincent's rocks, in those parts which the miners have blasted, present a variety of colors, which altogether produce a hue, that conveys to the mind the idea of ignition. The rocks that have not been blown are of a light grey, and covered with shrubs.

William of Worcester, mentions a chapel and hermitage on these rocks, dedicated to St. Vincent. He describes them as situated about twenty fathoms from the bottom, and about the middle of the ascent, which confirms the conjecture, that St. Vincent's rocks rise to a height of more than three hundred feet. On the right hand, and almost at the summit, is a large chasm, generally called Giant's Hole. It is a spot much resorted to by the lads of the country for diversion, which, as the sport consists wholly in descending an almost perpendicular height of three hundred feet, at the hazard of their lives, is some proof of provincial hardihood.

Lapis

Lapis calaminaris is found in great plenty about St. Vincent's rocks ; and they abound with subjects of botanical research. Sir Joseph Banks was the first who discovered here a species of ophrys, often met with on Durdham-downs.

On the left, the rocks and woods break abruptly down to the foot-path, presenting a very interesting and noble scene. The rocks which are better known by the name of *the Roman station*, are alternately relieved by wood ; and every steep break has its pendant group of ash, most beautifully varying what otherwise would have been monotonous and insipid. These rocks fall, by a gentle declivity, behind the wood, on the banks of the Avon, and imperceptibly lose themselves. Another mass of rock, of the same appearance, joins the opposite one, and rises to the same height, though not so abruptly ; these two form a semicircle, at the bottom of which a path leads through a shady retreat, and up a coomb of some length, to Leigh-down, which separated the Roman camps.

camps. Frequent parties are made to this spot, for the purpose of drinking tea: an old oak's projecting withered branch serves to sling the kettle from, while a piece of rock, and a felled tree, supply the deficiency of a table and chair: a small band of music is often an adjunct to this rural scene; and the reverberation of the sounds among the rocks, produces a sort of gentle confusion, that is, at least in perfect harmony with the wildness of the scene, if not to the advantage of the performers.

On the top of the rocks, and on the left, as we enter the dell, there was formerly a stone wall, to prevent the accidents common in a precipitous situation; but notwithstanding this precaution, a gentleman once riding hard in pursuit of a fox, and unable to restrain the impetuosity of his horse, cleared the fence, and came to the bottom, a spectacle not to be described. It is said, that a huntsman of the late lord de Clifford's, in pursuit of the same diversion, once rode up to the very top, and that neither he nor his horse were hurt;

an escape, of which no one can judge who has not surveyed the spot.

The eye turning now towards Bristol, is treated with a scene uncommonly gratifying. The river forms a broad expanse, and is bounded by the hills towards Bedminster; but to those who wish to avoid the prejudice of a disagreeable first impression, we would recommend a visit to this place only when the tide is up, as at other times much of the effect is lost by a deficiency of water.

From the Hot-well house, the river makes a gentle curve, and at the extremity of the reach, its course is turned into another channel, by a knoll of the same texture and appearance as those before described. The path on the St. Vincent's side, leads over a gentle eminence that projects into the Avon, and confines its boundaries.

From this rising ground, a very good view of the Hot-well house may be taken; but the stiff forms of the buildings now erecting above



FIGURE 49. *VIEW of the HOT WATER, on the RIVER AVON*

Painted & drawn & engraved by J. M. W. TURNER

above it, on the rocks of Clifton, however they may, when finished, embellish the scene, have totally ruined a once magnificent landscape.

In this reach, and particularly about this spot, the water is in general very rough, and the wind often blows a perfect squall ; eddies being formed in the interstices of the rocks and hills, from which it bursts with great violence.

Doubling these last-mentioned eminences, we enter another reach, along the sides of which are many stone quarries. The scenery now assumes an entirely new aspect, equally attractive with that we have passed, though not so bold and picturesque. Nothing can be more various than the studies this place offers to the painter's eye. During a residence of two years in Bristol, we seldom failed to make a diurnal visit to this reach, and always found it a fresh subject, and always worthy notice. With respect to the scenery itself, the frequent blasting of the rock continu-

ally

ally changes the fore-ground ; and the clearance the miners are forced to make, even to get room to work in, is another great cause of variety. The figures are also perpetually changing their grouping and their attitudes ; their barrows, their pick-axes, and other implements, assist the variety ; and to complete their fitness for the pencil, the ochre communicates to every object a hue so warm and glowing, that the *tout ensemble* is ready for the canvas.

The first set of quarries, as we enter this reach, is marked by a pyramidal top, running into a triangular form, as it declines towards the river. Where the miners have blown for stone, they have left projecting rocks, not unlike diamond squares, the coloring of which is a very full red. In the disjointed fragments of the other parts, they partake of a grey and purple hue. To give the best coloring to this scene, it should be that of a warm sun-set ; the other parts of the landscape would then participate the same hue, and reduce the predominant violence of the red.

Beyond



done by J. Lupton

VIEW ON THE RIVER AYON & THE STONE QUARRIES LOOKING TOWARDS BRIXTON



THE OLD IRON BLOCKS AND COMMON TOLLY IN THE RIVER NEAR THE NEW HOTWELL HOMES

Beyond these quarries, and on the same side of the river, a steep and rocky descent almost environs the New Hot-well house, on the path by the side of the Avon ; beyond which, the immense rocks under Wallis's wall, and Cook's folly and wood, close the scene, and to appearance join the wood, which stretches from the quarries on the Somersetshire side, beneath Leigh down.

This part of the river, seen at high water, resembles a long narrow lake, and is justly admired for its variety and grandeur. Its greatest defect is on the left hand, where the rocks, though covered with wood, are in too unbending a line.

Pursuing our way on the same side, we come immediately under the red quarries, from whence looking towards Bristol, a fresh scene presents itself. The rocks of the Roman station, which we noticed in the Hot-well reach, assume a more picturesque appearance ; they fall in elegant and flowing lines, while those on the St. Vincent's side, seem

seem from hence consolidated into one broad high mass, rather graceful than otherwise, and close up the scene by appearing to stretch across the river, where those of the opposite side unite with them.

We continue along the banks of the Avon till we reach the New Hot-well house, from whence, looking either way, we have a view, the *sombre* gloom of which is scarcely exceeded by that of Terni. A solemn stillness is here interrupted by nothing, but the innumerable kites and daws which hover over the lofty rocks at Wallis's wall.

The New Hot-well house was erected here to rival the other. It has a spring of the same virtues ; but the access to it being extremely dangerous, it has gone to decay, and is now converted into a hovel for the miners. The view from it is wonderfully grand. Immediately above it, Wallis's rocks rise in all possible majesty, to the height of three or four hundred feet.

From



VIEW from WALLISS'S ROCKS on the RIVER AVON looking towards BRISTOL.

Engraved, drawn & engraved by J. M. R.

Engraved by J. M. R.

Published by J. H. for A. & C. New, 1792. A. & C. New, 1792.

From hence the margin of the river is delightfully variegated with plants and rocks, while on the right, a broken craggy bank gives a rich side-screen to the picture. Beyond Wallis's rocks, the wood with Cook's folly on its summit, passes towards the peninsula, and is met by the rocky and wooded knolls on the other side.

The path continues under this immense stack of rock, and by the side of the Folly-wood. About mid-way, the retrospect presents the objects under an appearance totally different from what we had observed when nearer them, and far more picturesque than when seen from the New Hot-well house. The detached parts unite themselves, and form a broad and bold mass.

Annexed we have given an accurate representation of this scene. It was our intention to have reserved it for a moon-light ; but finding another for this effect, we preferred it. We would however, recommend this for the purpose to any one, who may hereafter visit

visit this place, on our errand ; as by an eight or nine o'clock full moon, there can scarcely exist a subject better adapted to it : the lights and shadows would admit of the greatest breadth, and as the moon at times rises immediately from behind, the naked rocks in the distance would be converted into shadow, and add consequence to the large masses in the fore-grounds.

The Avon, from its junction with the Severn as far as Bristol, has a strong impregnation of mud, which to spectators in general is disgusting ; with an artist, this objection is of small importance, as by the principles of optics, the reflections and shadows are little affected by this circumstance.

The river now again alters its course, and winds round a peninsula, called the Folly marsh. At a short distance to the left is the village of Leigh, from whence the down takes its name. Cook's folly is an octagon building, on the highest point of the wood, above the meadows ; it is used only as a summer-

summer-house, and is the property of Miss Jackson, who has a house a few fields from it. It is said to have been built by a gentleman of the name of Cook, of whom the following story is current in the neighbourhood: it was predicted to him by some fortune-tellers, that he should die by the bite of a serpent. To avoid this calamity, he built this tower, with a terrace on the top, where he might walk for the air; but no other access to it, than by a ladder placed against a door, many feet from the ground. Here he secluded himself with an old maid-servant, she going out for whatever was wanted, and he drawing up the ladder when she had descended. It happened that she fell sick, and being now forced to light the fire, he fetched some wood from a place where a stock of it was kept. Some venomous animal had been brought in with it—it wounded him—his terror brought on a fever—and he died.— For the truth of this legend we will not vouch; but such it is.

From the path leading from the Folly towards Wallis's rocks, there is a most enchanting view of the river, with a part of the valley opposite the Rownham passage, and the hills of Dundry. This prospect is little known to the people of Bristol; it was accident that discovered it to us.

Passing round this peninsula, we are brought to an opening of meadows on each side of the river: the foot-path leads to Sea-mill dock, and over a plank bridge that communicates with the meadows on the bank of the Avon.

Sea-mill dock, like all others places that have been rivalled successfully, is left a prey to time. The store-houses, that were here in great numbers, are now fallen to decay: scarce a roof remains perfect; and of those buildings that are occupied, the inhabitants are as wretched as the hovels. This dilapidation is in some measure the consequence of a tedious litigation, in which the proprietors have been involved; but it is now designed to

to repair the dock, and make it once more fit for the reception of vessels. Before this place was converted into a dock, a great number of Roman coins were dug up; and when the dock was making, in the year 1712, an arched gate-way was discovered, and abundance of coins of Constantius, Constantine, and Nero.

On the Somersetshire side, and directly opposite to this place, is a beech-tree, beneath the branches of which a troop of horse might take shelter.

The scenery on each side of the Avon, now gives up all claim to beauty of any kind; the fir-woods in lord de Clifford's park, terminate the prospect one way; the Folly wood is another conspicuous feature; but beyond it, all is a confusion of objects.

At the bottom of lord de Clifford's park, the river again alters its course, and continues westward by the powder mills, as far as Hunger-road; at which place ships are moored,

ed, and wait, as at Gravesend, for orders or clearance.

We now reach the village of Pill, which is situated on the Somersetshire side of the river, a place famous for pilots and boat-men, who conduct the vessels to and from Bristol. It is principally inhabited by this description of persons, and by fishermen, and is an irregular, ill-built, dirty place. There is a never-ceasing enmity between this village and Bristol; the people of Pill vent their rage on those of Bristol, by every species of imposition and rapacity; while contempt and opprobrium are liberally returned to them.

Opposite to Pill, and consequently on the Gloucestershire side, is a well known house, known by the name of Lamplighters' hall: it is a place of resort for parties of pleasure, and particularly frequented by the captains of vessels, lying in King-road.

At this place we embarked for Portishead-woods, taking with us a cold collation; a necef-

necessary precaution on such an excursion, as there is no house within a mile of the landing place.

The river from Pill is open on each side, with the Monmouthshire mountains in the distance, and the small island of Denny near the middle of the Severn. The seat of lord de Clifford, which we shall hereafter describe, lies on the right hand.

Two miles from Pill, we entered the Bristol channel ; and the tide being high, passed over the flats on the west side. Unless it is a very high tide, this passage is inconvenient, on account of a shoal, where vessels are often detained till the tide rises sufficiently to take them off.

An hour's pleasant sailing brought us to the woods at Portishead point, the western extremity of King-road, and which, stretching for a considerable distance into the Severn, forms an extensive bay, where ships may ride in the worst weather.

The

The shore is bold, and the combination of objects about it very pleasing. Parties are often made to this place and its neighbourhood, for the purpose of shooting water-fowl. A wish to visit Leigh-house, made us determine on returning by land to Bristol, from which place it is distant about eleven miles.

From Portishead woods, the road led us by some fishermen's huts ; we then entered the village, and kept the lower road through St. George's and Portbury, by Pill, to Leigh-house, which stands near a mile from the village of the same name, and between the high road and the river Avon. The ride was beautiful, and abounded with views, worthy an artist's attention. Mounting a hill, we had a very extensive prospect, on both sides, of the Avon, the Severn, and the Welch coast, towards Henbury. The inns at King's Weston, the windmill beyond it, and Blaize castle, are all conspicuous objects.

Descending on the left hand near half a mile, we reached Leigh-house, the residence
of

of Mr. Jones. It is rendered famous, by having afforded shelter to king Charles II. who fled hither from his pursuers, by whom he was so closely pressed, that on entering the house, he had only time to disguise himself, by throwing a carter's frock over his shoulders; he made the cook his friend; and when those who were in quest of him rushed in, and enquired if he had been seen, she answered with *Anan*, and instantly applied a cudgel to the back of the king, whom she had set to wind up the jack, at the same time scolding him loudly for his tardiness; the men seeing her lay her blows on with so much good will and ability, called out for mercy for the lad, and immediately left the house, not at all suspecting the deception. The block on which he stood to perform this servile office, and the chair on which he sat, have been preserved, and are still shewn.

The mansion is a heavy stone building. During the life of lady Trencher Gordon, who occupied it, it was decorated with an excellent collection of pictures, most of

of which were purchased by Mr. Weeks, the well-known master of the Bush tavern, in Bristol, and re-sold by him.

Returning into the high road, we enter the village of Leigh, pleasantly situated at the summit of a considerable hill, from whence it overlooks the valley, as far as Portishead. The road declines, till it reaches the down, which affords extensive prospects. The downs of this neighbourhood occupy a large tract of land, stretching from the Rownham passage to Clapham, a village about two miles from Portishead. The whole is a warren, abundantly stocked with rabbits.

Crossing Leigh downs, we had a view of the house of Mr. Abbot to whom they belong. It is on the right hand, opposite the wood, near the Roman camp. The road leads for a short distance through the wood, when it abruptly breaks off. We crossed the ferry, and were again at the Hot-wells.

Visitors to the Hot-wells derive great advantage and equal pleasure from the number and variety of rides and walks the neighbouring country affords. Durdham-downs, King's-Weston hill, and the banks of the Severn, are the situations most resorted to. This noble river adds more than its own peculiar charms to the beauty of the country, by presenting an inexhaustible variety of shipping. The usual morning-ride is round Wallis's wall on Durdham-downs, where horses and carriages are to be seen, as in Hyde-park. The air of this down is esteemed the purest of any in England; and in its temperature, is neither too cold for tender constitutions, nor too warm for the purposes of healthy exercise. It has always a gentle breeze passing over it; and the morning and evening tides of the Severn bring a great quantity of the saline vapor hither.

Wallis's wall is an erection by a Bristol gentlemen, whose name it carries, for the benevolent purpose of rendering a ride on these downs perfectly safe. From it there is an extensive

view of a long vale, in which are seen the villages of Pill, Portbury, St. George, and Portishead, with the Avon gliding close under the eye.

A number of detached coppices, and gentlemen's houses, decorate the valley, while the sea appears as if above Portishead point, and is skirted on the opposite side by the Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire hills. In the extremity of the distance, Cardiff in Glamorganshire may be perfectly discerned, by the help of a glass and a clear atmosphere. A greater variety of objects can hardly be found in one view than that here. Looking southward from the down, the Avon is again seen winding from rock to rock, until it is closed up behind St. Vincent's, where Dundry obstructs the eye. On the right of Durdham-down, an extensive, but very unattractive prospect, offers itself. Crossing from Wallis's wall, towards an inn called the Ostrich, we turn into the road that leads to Shirehampton, King's Weston, and Lamp-lighters' hall. The walk across the fields from Durdham-down, by Pitch and Pay farm,

to

to lord de Clifford's, is preferable to the high road.

Below the down on the right, we pass the elegant mansion of Lady Lippincott, situated at the summit of a hill, and commanding extensive prospects, nearly the same as those of Durdham-down. The house has a singular appearance, and is surrounded by a small park, paddock and gardens. A little below the house, through an opening in the trees, is seen Blaize-castle. Opposite to lady Lippincott's and by the foot-path, is the farm called Pitch and Pay.

Descending rather abruptly, we enter the village of Stoke, on the left of which, a lane branches off, leading to Sea-mill dock, a rural and pleasant ride. Stoke lies in a compressed valley, at the foot of inconsiderable hills, from whence the road continues to the right. Intermitting spaces admit of views on both sides ; on the left, are the houses of Mr. Harford, Miss Jackson, and Mr. Skidmore.

At

At the termination of the road, leading to the inn at King's Weston, another road passes through lord de Clifford's park, to the pleasant village of Shirehampton. A number of remarkably large elms extend on each side of the road, their boughs spreading to a great distance. The park, which is planted with oaks and pines, is by no means so considerable a space of ground as is usually allotted to parks. The road declines gradually till we are brought to the lodge, at the other extremity of these grounds, from whence we immediately enter Shirehampton.

There is but one view from the park that deserves notice, and this includes the river Avon and Sea-mills; they appear at a short distance, and are backed by the Folly-wood. During a spring tide, when the banks of the river are flooded, and the shipping are floating up to Bristol, the scene is pleasant; but its claims to praise, even at the best, are very slender.

The village of Shirehampton is prettily situated under a gentle eminence, called Penpole

pole hill, and is surrounded by lofty and numerous groups of ash, oak, and elm trees. The vicinity of this village to Bristol, and the easy conveyance thither by water, are circumstances that render it an inviting summer-residence to the gentlemen of that city. At the entrance of Shirehampton, and in the centre of the green, opposite the George inn, is an elm tree of a very great height ; but still more remarkable, on account of the manner in which the root has twisted itself into a parcel of rock, that lies beneath it ; in many parts, it has perforated the solid stone, and comes out at an opposite part. It makes an appearance that cannot fail of exciting every passenger's curiosity.

There are several genteel houses in this village, among which Mr. Seager's claims a superiority ; his gardens and grounds which surround the house, are laid out with taste, and the avenues to the summer-house and grotto, present a sudden and extensive view of the Severn, King-road, and Portishead-point and bay, with a considerable distance to

to the westward, and the Monmouthshire hills to the north. It is to this gentleman's politeness and patronage, that we are indebted for much of the pleasure we derived from this part of our tour.

From Shirehampton, a back-road leads to Pen-pole, an abrupt knoll at one of the terminations of lord de Clifford's park. On the extreme northern point of this knoll is a dial pedestal, which attracted us to the best view we had yet found here, though it presented only the vale of Severn, which Somerville has so exquisitely introduced in his Hobbinol. It extends to the Old or Aust passage house, where a gentle, but formal swell of hills closes the view. The New passage house in Gloucestershire, and the opposite one in Monmouthshire, are very discernible, as opaque white spots, which are relieved by woods and fields. The valley is decked with a richness rarely to be met with ; coppices and hedge rows are grouped in graceful confusion, till the whole resolves itself into a continued wood. Immediately above the vale,

vale, and on a gentle acclivity, stands the mansion of lord de Clifford, surrounded by woods, and sheltered by King's-Weston down.

Passing through the lodge, we entered the private grounds, from whence, by a broad gravel walk, and a flight of steps, we approached the house. The time allowed by his lordship for the admission of strangers to see the pictures, when he is resident there, is from ten in the forenoon, till two in the afternoon ; when he is absent, they are shewn at all times.

Entering the great hall, we are presented with numerous portraits of the Southwell family. Opposite the door, and over the chimney-piece, are five whole lengths, by Kneller ; the two principal, are the earl and countess of Ardglass : above these are five other family portraits kitcat ; on each side of the fire-place are portraits by Vandyck, one of Finch, earl of Nottingham, the other a very capital picture of doctor Harvey ; the

color-

coloring of this is very much faded, and the varnish on it is chilled by damp ; but these casual imperfections do not obscure its merit.

On the drawing-room side, and on a line with the other whole lengths, are five more ; that of a lady named Catherine Watson, who married into the Southwell family, is well painted by Ramsay, the drapery is by Vanuden ; this picture is much superior in grace to those of the earl and countess of Rockingham, Lewis Watson and Catharine Furness, which hang near it. Above these there are five kitcats of the family ; among them an earl of Rockingham, when a boy, well painted.

Beneath the whole lengths are four more, by sir Peter Lely and sir Godfrey Kneller.

On the breakfast-room side are a Robert Southwell, and a Mrs. Southwell, by Van-dyck ; and on the lower pannels, opposite to these, are two more of the family, by Kneller. Above them are three whole lengths by Kneller and Lely, of two Edward Southwells and

and lady Elizabeth Cromwell. Over the whole lengths are five portraits all kitcat.

From the great hall we are immediately conducted into the green room, where are also many portraits ; the most conspicuous, by Hans Holbein. That of Thomas Cromwell, and one beneath it, are equal to any thing of this master's : there are about ten others by him. Two by Rembrandt, hang on the right hand side as we enter ; the subject of one is St. Peter, painted with all the strength of light and shadow, that so eminently distinguished this artist ; the companion is a younger head, in the same style, but not equal to the former.

Over the door is a portrait of Edward Southwell, by Hudson, the drapery by Van- uden. This picture has as much taste, and brilliancy of coloring, as any of Hudson's portraits ; but labors under the disguise of an antiquated and formal dress. The observation here strikes us, that to paint fashions, is to disgust every generation that outlives

E e them.

them. The works of Vandyck will ever be agreeable to the eye, because he avoided all the defects that regular drapery is subject to, and invented such dresses, as make no appeal to custom. The same praise is due to some artists of our own time.

Opposite the fire-place, is one by sir Godfrey Kneller, of king Charles in his robes; this picture merits attention; but is not a first-rate performance. Over the chimney-piece is a whole length of William Ashburnham, by Lely, a portrait of very great merit; it is very much in the style of Vandyck, and little inferior to many of his works. For want of fires in the apartments, the varnish of several of the pictures is much hurt, and many have suffered essentially by it.

Near the chimney is a lady of the Southwell family, painted by Kneller, with whom as a subject for the pencil, she was a great favorite; she is drawn here in two different attitudes; in one she is playing on a lute or guitar, in the other she is contemplating a minia-

miniature. The earl of Offory, by Lely, is a good picture; here is a remarkable portrait of sir Philip Percival, by an Italian master, and another of the earl of Stafford in armor, near the door on the left. A few others are by Vandyck, and in his usual style of excellence.

On the slab, is a small, but beautiful piece of sculpture, of a satyr chained to a tree.

The number of portraits in this room is fifty.

In the breakfast-room, and opposite the fire-place, is another portrait of Catharine Watson, and one of Elizabeth Dering, both by sir Peter Lely.

A whole length of Mrs. Ashburnham hangs over Catharine Watson, a brilliant, well-painted picture; the drapery is stiff, and the want of a broad effect on the figure, makes it stiffer. She is dressed in white, with a queen Elizabeth's ruff.

Alto-

Altogether there are ten on this side of the room ; and facing the window are seven more, one by Kneller, an allegorical subject, with a portrait of his favorite introduced in it. On this side are three whole lengths.

Over and by the fire-place are ten, one a portrait of the dowager lady de Clifford, by sir Joshua Reynolds. This picture has been painted many years ; it has all the vivacity and elegance of sir Joshua's portraits, but the coloring is gone : contrasted with the works of Lely and Kneller, this picture has a great advantage. It was the custom of these artists, to relieve their portraits only on a dark brown back-ground : the painter of our time preferred one that should harmonize with the figure, and the difference of effect is very striking. It is farther to be observed of Lely and Kneller, that they always gave their nobility, statesmen, and judges, the characteristics of austerity and pride. Reynolds blended affability with dignity, rendered a thoughtful countenance engaging, and could temper

temper the rigor of justice by the mild expression of benignity.

In this room are twenty-seven pictures, chiefly portraits, a bronze head of one of the Roman emperors, a centaur and cupids, and three others of the same description on the chimney-piece.

In the vestibule are two paintings, one of the Roman charity, the other the anatomizing a satyr.

We are now conducted up stairs into the best bed-chamber, and passing through the tapestry-room to it, are presented with some of the finest kind of that work, and three pictures, two of which are shipping, by Stork; they hang almost too high for criticism, but they do not appear to be the best of this master's works.—Over the chimney is the Circumcision, by Paul Veronese, a very dark picture; the outline is hard, and all the figures are stiff. In this room there are eleven portraits, two of them are in crayons; that of lord Sondes, is by the late Mr. Hoare.

The

The adjoining closet is furnished with twenty-nine paintings of different subjects, and in different styles. Four are ascribed to Salvator Rosa, probably two are by him; they are his favorite subject, banditti and armed soldiers. Four of buildings, one by Marco Ricci. On the other side is an oval landscape, by Gaspar Poussin, the figures by Carracci; a small picture of Jupiter and Leda, by Jordaens; one by Antony Palamedes; a landscape by Graffine; and a brilliant and spirited merry-making by Teniers, over the door.

Returning through the same apartments, we are led to lady de Clifford's dressing-room, which is fitted up with some of the choicest and best selected pictures that ever graced a collection, all in the highest preservation. The room is somewhat long, and the light is admitted only at one end, yet there is a sufficient quantity of it. Over the door is a battle-piece; a capital and brilliant performance. Its great height makes it difficult to ascertain the master, but it appears a performance

ance of Wyke's. On the right and left are two by Claude, the one, morning with an extensive distance ; the other, sun-set, with an Italian sea. The sun-set is painted with all the truth and chastity of Claude : the sun is objected to as too large ; but this fault is abundantly atoned for by a thousand perfections : the effect of light gradually approaching the fore-ground, is fine and well contrived : the rays issuing from the sun are charming, and the harmony throughout this picture is complete. Its companion is a beautiful clear picture ; the aerial perspective is particularly attended to, and exhibits a country of considerable extent, bounded by immense mountains : the coloring is a warm grey, without any light too predominant. 'Tis the work of a studious serene mind.

In criticising such a performance of such a master, it is impossible not to remark his admirable faculty of fixing the attention to the principal object of his picture ; an equality of importance never distracts the eye ; we are invited by the general beauty to examine it

it in detail ; but we are never suffered to wander far from the grand feature.

On each side of the fire-place is a landscape by Poussin, perhaps the best performance of this master ; that nearest the window is much superior to the other. The scene lies in Italy ; and at a proper distance, it has the effect of a highly finished picture ; but on a closer inspection, we discover not the least appearance of its having been labored ; it may vie with any landscape in the collection : the companion is a morning, and more in the style of Claude than that of Poussin ; it is a sober chaste performance.

Above these are two by Baptiste, allegorical subjects.

On one side of the chimney is a holy family, by Titian ; and on the other is a dead Christ, by Michael Angelo. The Titian is clear and well colored ; and the other has great merit. Beneath these is a Magdalen, by Guido, an inimitable performance ; and a

Jupi-

Jupiter and Danaë, by P. Laws. Above and on each side are two highly finished, by Wren, of Holy Families, festooned round with flowers.

Over the chimney-piece is a drawing in crayons, by Gardiner, of the Dowager Lady de Clifford and her Family, an excellent composition. Over this is the Adoration of the Shepherds, by Luca Jordano, in which the light is happily introduced, and the figures finely disposed. On each side of this picture is an upright painting.

The opposite side contains four views on the canals of Venice, by Canaletti, painted in a broad style, and equal to any of his works ; a small landscape by Claude ; two by Vangoen ; one in the manner of Both ; two by Poussin ; one by Kneller, in which he has introduced his favourite as St. Cecilia ; and two small pictures said to be by Berchem : if so, they are his early productions. Besides miniatures, there are in this room forty-five pictures.

At the farther end, and on each side of the door, are two glass-cases for china and curiosities, in the centre of which are two frames of miniatures and cameos.

In lady de Clifford's bed-room is some very fine tapestry, part of it appears to have been executed after Raffaëlle. Here are also two small pictures of the Virgin Mary.

We now descend again to the ground-floor, and come to the drawing-room.

Over the chimney is a St. John in the Wilderness, by Raffaëlle, an exquisitely fine picture, the drawing chaste and elegant, and grace and force in every limb and muscle. The superior knowledge of this great master, in whatever related to attitude and proportion, is in all his works conspicuous ; but there is a vast difference between those of his works that have found their way to our country, and those to be seen only in the Vatican. The picture we are now considering is certainly one of the very best of his oil paintings ; but

but in the same room is a Holy Family by him, far below mediocrity ; the child is an ungraceful lump : the other figures are harsh and badly coloured.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, in his lecture to the students of the Royal Academy, given in the year 1772, on the Distribution of the Prizes, speaks of him in the following words :

“ Raffaëlle, who stands in general foremost
 “ of the first painters, owes his reputation,
 “ as I have observed, to his excellence in
 “ the higher parts of the art, therefore his
 “ works in fresco ought to be the first object
 “ of our study and attention. His easel works
 “ stand in a lower degree of estimation ; for
 “ though he continually, to the day of his
 “ death, embellished his works more and
 “ more with the addition of these lower
 “ ornaments, which entirely make the merit
 “ of some ; yet he never arrived at such per-
 “ fection as to make him an object of imi-
 “ tation ; he never was able to conquer per-
 “ fectly that dryness, or even littleness of
 “ man-

" manner, which he inherited from his master. He never acquired that nicety of taste in colours, that breadth of light and shadow, that art and management of uniting light to light and shadow to shadow, so as to make the object rise out of the ground with that plentitude of effect so much admired in the works of Coreggio. When he painted in oil, his hand seemed to be so cramped and confined, that he not only lost that facility and spirit, but I think even that correctness of form, which is so perfect and admirable in his fresco works : I do not recollect any pictures of his of this kind, except perhaps the transfiguration, in which there are not some parts that appear to be even feebly drawn.

" That this is not a necessary attendant on oil painting, we have abundance of instances in more modern paintings ; Lodovico Carracci, for instance, preserved in his works, in oil, the same spirit, vigour, and correctness, which he had in fresco.

" I have

“ I have no desire to degrade Raffaëlle
 “ from the high rank which he deservedly
 “ holds : but by comparing him with him-
 “ self, he does not appear to me to be the
 “ same man in oil as in fresco.”

On the same side with the St. John are a Susanna and the Elders, by Rubens, a fine picture ; a Virgin and Child, by Guercino ; St. John the Evangelist, by Gargione ; a Holy Family by Coreggio, one of the finest of his works ; a St. Cecilia, by Carlo Marat ; and a Rock Scene, by Salvator Rosa.

On the side next the ante-room, are a portrait by Titian ; the two painters by Carracci, an early study of his, and in the Venetian style ; Moses in the bulrushes, by Nicolas Poussin, a very highly-finished picture, finely drawn and coloured ; the Holy Family beforementioned, by Raffaëlle ; the wise men’s Offering by Titian, which appears to have been touched on, and two landscapes over the door by Horizonte.

On the right-hand side, next the door, are a St. Jerome by Carracci, a first-rate performance of this master; Joseph and our Saviour, by Guido, a brilliant and delicately painted picture; the head of Joseph is, as Sterne describes the Calaisian friar's, 'mild, pale, and penetrating'; a Magdalen, by the same hand, and in the same style; St. Cecilia, by Dominichino; and a Sibyl by Carlo Marat.

The pictures in this room and the ante-room, which we now enter, are all in the best preservation, and are esteemed the flower of the collection.

Over the chimney-piece of the ante-room, are a Venus and Cupid, by Coreggio; the same subject by Guido; and the same again, by Lovet, is over the door; Christ and the Woman at the Well, by Carlo Marat; Sampson and Delilah, by Nicolas Poussin; a Madonna and Child, by Guercino; a Hermit, by Kneller; and a Pilgrim, by Zeeman.

In the eating-parlor are three whole-lengths of personages of the family, by Kneller ; three views of ruins ; and some bronzes on the chimney-piece, which make up the whole of the collection.

The gardens belonging to this seat are laid out with suitable taste, and may be seen at any time, a gardener attending expressly for the purpose of conducting strangers. On a knoll of inconsiderable height above the eastern extremity of the park, is a house called King's-Weston Inn, much resorted to by those who visit lord de Clifford's, as being a convenient place to leave their carriages and servants at. The down above this house is frequented by morning parties from the Wells : its elevation and pure air are great inducements with invalids. The walk across the fields to King's-Weston is about three miles and an half from Park-street, Bristol, through a shady path.

From the down, and near the wind-mill, an extensive prospect may be seen : a furſace of
about

about thirty miles appears declining on all sides below the brow of this hill : all the passage-houses on the river Severn, and the boats crossing it, may be distinctly seen : the river may be traced eastward far beyond Newnham, and to the west as low as Cardiff ; the entrance of the Wye, and the lofty mountains about Piercefield ; the mountains in Monmouthshire, which pass in flowing lines on the opposite shore, and lose themselves in pleasing confusion ; and the infinite variety of verdure observable in different spots of this sublime landscape, render it one of the first in the kingdom.

To the south are Lansdown hills and Dundry. The eye is instantly, on turning this way, attracted by the artificial building called Blaize Castle, situated at the very summit of a spiral rock, and surrounded with wood. From hence it appears considerably higher than any ground within the same distance of Bristol.

The road from King's-Weston continues under the brow of this hill, and has the vale of

of Severn, with the river, and its accompaniment of rude scenery on the opposite side. A short mile from hence is the village of Henbury, where a number of the inhabitants of Bristol have country houses.

At the foot of Blaize-castle wood, and adjoining the church, is the seat of Mr. Harford. Since the castle and grounds have been in his occupation, he has made very considerable improvements ; the battlements form a terrace, on which he has mounted eight cannon. In the walks up to it are many objects of curiosity. The only day when strangers are admitted, is Thursday.

From the top of the castle, we look down a coomb of considerable length, on each side of which are high perpendicular rocks, with a great quantity of wood beneath them. A particular part of the rock resembling a seat, is called the Giant's chair. Blaize-castle has been celebrated in a poem, named after it, by Davies.

Leaving the pretty village of Henbury, we proceed up Gloucester-lane. On the left hand,

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and half way towards Cribb's causeway, is the seat of Mr. Battersby, a merchant of Bristol. It stands about half a mile out of the road, and on the brow of a hill that commands the Severn, and has the same view from it, as that seen from King's-Weston hill. At the end of this lane, we enter the high-road to the New and Old Passage houses.

The road is now hemmed in on each side by hedge-rows, with little variation, for a considerable distance. The seat of Mr. Daubigny, and another more elevated near Aldmonsbury, are very conspicuous, and are not inferior, in beauty of situation, to any on the banks of the Severn.

A little beyond the six-mile stone, we find a very humble public-house, from whence there is an unbounded view ; the principal objects are the entrance of the Wye, and the river Severn with its vale. Nothing can be richer than the appearance of the vale from this spot. It is a luxuriant garden, rather than fields, the hedges having much more the aspect

aspect of an ornamental shrubbery, than of fences and boundaries.

Descending a steep woody hill, we arrive at the entrance of Marsh-common ; the scene is now quite changed ; and instead of rich fore-grounds, that had accompanied us hitherto, with towering oaks on each side, that screened us kindly from a summer sun, we had nothing in prospect but an exposed common, near three miles across, affording nothing but pasture. It is reckoned a choice spot for fattening sheep, and is generally well stocked with them and with black cattle, besides geese in abundance. It also produces one article of food not often to be found within land, this is shrimps, which come up the ditches, cut here from the Severn.

The first time we visited the New Passage-house was about half an hour before sun-set, and the effect was superior to any we could afterwards catch on the Severn. The strength of light and shade, at that moment, entirely
con-

concealed the want of transparency in the water: the reflections were vivid, without that chill clearness that is often produced in purer water by a strong light.

Another good effect we observed on this river, when flying clouds produced a confined light that passed through the view, and with a high and rich fore-ground, a spacious vale beneath, and the Severn washing its shores, gave a true keeping to the distant mountains. Such a light thrown over this spot, blends the land and water into softness, and gives harmony to the composition. On the contrary, a light that catches only on the water, throws the land into a hard shadow, and the effect is destroyed.

Our curiosity led us, one summer morning, to observe the Severn scenery, a short time before day-break. The eastern hills were streaked with red, which gradually broke into a chill vapoury purple sky; the water was smooth, and reflected the morning star; the distant mountains, but just perceptible, were half enve-



Landscapes drawn & engraved by J. Tallis.

VIEW on the SEVERN from the New Passage-house in Gloucestershire; with the FERRY BOAT preparing to depart at low Water.

Engraved & Coloured & etched by J. Tallis.

Published for J. Tallis, by H. Colborn & Co., New Bond Street, on Sept. 1, 1843.

enveloped in the morning mist ; the rest of nature in ‘ sober grey,’ foretold the day’s approach. The variations were infinite ; the objects changed their form and hues every moment ; and the scene we had been contemplating, was soon, by the broad glare of day, past recognition.

When the sun has risen so high as to illuminate the river, it destroys all keeping. The hedge-rows on the opposite side, are too conspicuous for the canvas ; the gleams of light dazzle with more force than effect on the water, and the sky in general assumes more of a raw blue than is grateful to the eye ; nor do the clouds exhibit those brilliant silver touches, so admirably caught in the works of David Teniers.

The views from the New Passage-house are extensive and grand. To the left are two remarkable mountains, which, though heavy and shapeless, serve admirably to relieve a long strait line of hills ; the intervening space is of a semicircular form ; they are well wood-ed

ed to the tops, and are situated at the beginning of Wentwood forest, on the road leading from St. Pierre's to Usk and Abergavenny. The hills round Piercefield, and which form the bed of the river Wye, are noble and striking; rising first in gentle eminences, they mount above each other, till the rocks at Piercefield, towering to a stupendous height, and intermixed with hanging woods and jutting precipices, unite with them to form a scene, that leaves the eye bewildered in awful confusion. Above the bed and entrance of the Wye, the Passage-house at Beachley may be distinctly seen, with a long uninteresting sweep of hills, devoid of form or recommendation of any kind.

Close by the New Passage-house, an embankment, to prevent the Severn from encroaching on the meadows, extends to the Old or Aust Passage-house, three miles distant. The different cuts into the river from Marsh common, occasion a circuit of at least a mile and half, between the New and Old Passage houses.

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VIEW of the Entrance of the RIVER WYE, from a Fisherman's Cottage below the New Passage House on the Severn.
Painted by G. and W. Kneller

Whoever, previous to visiting this spot, has read Mr. Gilpin's bewitching description of the river Wye, cannot withstand the allurement of a passage to the other side, for the sake of viewing the remains of Chepstow castle, the solemn ruins of Tintern abbey, and the romantic walks of Piercefield. As all these places may be explored in one day, most of those who come to Bristol make this excursion.

To facilitate this pleasant purpose, we annex some particulars, which are necessary to be known to those who cross the Severn.

From the New Passage-house in Gloucestershire, to Port Skewith, near St. Pierre's, it is about three miles over, and this is the direct road to all parts of South-wales, and the lower parts of Monmouthshire.

From the Old or Aust Passage-house, to Beachley, it is two miles over. This road leads from Bristol to Newent, Newnham, the forest of Dean, and the upper parts of Monmouthshire.

The

The winds for crossing the Severn, are distinguished by the appellation of *Winds below* and *Winds above*.

Winds below, are those that blow *up* the river, southerly or westerly ; with these, the passage is during the ebb or going out of the tide, which is seven hours.

Winds above, are those that blow *down* the river, northerly or easterly. With these the river may be passed, during five hours on the flood, or coming in of the tide.

When the wind is south-east or north-west, it is directly across the river ; therefore passengers must be at the Passage-house, where they intend to cross, an hour before high-water.

The difference of passing at Aust, and the New Passage-house, varies about an hour.

Tide coming in, and wind above, New Passage is an hour sooner than Aust.

Tide

Tide going out, wind below, Aust is an hour sooner than New Passage.

The tide at Bristol bridge is an hour sooner high water than at the New Passage; so that an enquiry there obtains all the information necessary, when these rules are known.

The price of passage by the horse-boat is, for a four-wheeled carriage, ten shillings; for a two-wheeled carriage, five shillings; for a man and horse, one shilling; for a horse alone, eight-pence; for a foot passenger, six-pence; for cattle, six-pence per head; for sheep and pigs, two shillings and six-pence per score. For a small boat to cross over with a private party, five shillings, exclusive of six-pence for each person.

The New Passage-house has long been resorted to by companies for dinner and tea. The accommodations and entertainment have been much and justly complained of; but new inhabitants have retrieved its character.

H h

A coach

A coach sets out every morning, at seven o'clock, from Bristol for the New Passage-house ; and another at eight o'clock for the Aust. The mail-coach for Milford, with the Waterford mail, leaves Bristol about eleven in the forenoon in summer, and is a sure conveyance across the Severn in the packet-boat, which is kept in the pay of government for this express purpose.

At low water, when the horse-boat is ready to receive its passengers, the boatmen sound a horn as a signal for embarkation ; and it is a ludicrous sight to see the whimsical groupes that have attended Bristol market hastening to secure their passage. Great inconvenience often attends the embarkation at low water, from the roughness of the shore and the rapidity of the current ; but when the tide is up, the boat takes in its freight at Pill, close to the house it goes from, and there is no difficulty.

Accidents in this short, yet critical passage, are very rare. The most remarkable occurred many

many years ago : a gentleman, one of a company in a small boat, had his hat blown off ; he immediately ordered the man at the helm to put the vessel about, that he might save his hat : it was low water and the man refused, on the plea of extreme hazard : the gentleman in a passion caught the helm and would do it himself ; the rapid current and a squall of wind which rose at the moment, overset the boat, and all, excepting two, perished. This mad impetuosity was afterwards in some measure accounted for, though nothing could justify it, by the discovery that in the hat were concealed several bank-notes. Another fatal accident once happened by carelessness in not securing a plank of the horse-boat, when crossing from Aust to Beachley ; the water rushed in, and it went to the bottom.

The rapidity of the Severn is known to all acquainted with its name, but none who have not witnessed it, can form a just idea of it : the coming in of the tide is astonishingly grand ; and under particular circumstances it is terrific.—Towards the close of the day an awful

awful solemnity is the character the river assumes ; and it conveys to the contemplative mind a peculiar cast of ideas nature in this place only has power to infuse.

In summer the small express-boat is always to be preferred to the horse-boat, as it makes a quicker passage, and the company is more select. With a little wind in its favor, it crosses usually in half an hour.

At low water, the bar across the Severn may be traced almost from one side to the other : this barrier contributes in some measure to the force of the current : the channel for vessels navigating the Severn, is very inconsiderable, when compared with its width, and the body of water it exhibits.

Beyond the rocks we have a distinct view of the influx of the Avon and Portishead bay and point, with the coast of Somersetshire extending to a great distance. In the mid-channel we see the little island we before noticed, and on the other side we have a close

close view of the modest Wye pursuing its course between rocks and woods for near three hundred miles, and losing itself in the Severn's impetuous torrent. These two rivers take their rise from the mountain Plinlimmon, in the wildest part of Cardiganshire; and though they issue from spots within a few paces of each other, preserve their independence till they become united here.

We landed at Portscuit—on a much better shore than that we had embarked from. No trouble ever attends the entering or quitting the boat here, the beach being perfectly solid.

But however convenient it may be when the elements are at peace, we were witnesses of a scene that might have deterred many from ever again trusting the Naiads of the Severn. At the close of a remarkably serene evening in July, while we were enjoying the beauty of the scene, extended on a grass plat, we were startled by a very vivid flash of lightning and a sudden and most tremendous clap of thun-

thunder : a heavy cloud instantly spread itself over us, and the elements were in a moment opposed in all their fury to each other : the Severn rolled with a tremendous roar, while the fire that flashed from the clouds at every instant, caught some rising wave, or the foaming surf, and horribly illumined it : peal after peal of thunder resounded in ten thousand echos, reverberating among the rocks on the Wye, till, spending itself on the opposite shore, it murmured out its rage.

A horse-boat that had been becalmed, was attempting to make the shore : the shrieks of women, the hoarse bawling of the boatmen, and the incessant kicking of the horses, were perfectly distinguishable, and added to our own terrors those we felt for these unfortunate beings.—Untenable as was the spot we were in, it was impossible to quit it with such objects in view : we watched and saw a woman, half dead with horror, borne to the shore by two men. A horse was next landed ; and he, rearing up against every coming flash, dragged with him his keeper, who yet held him by a halter :

halter : at one moment we saw him slip many feet down the rocks ; the next he was swimming chest high. At length, by perseverance and by repeating his efforts, he gained the shore, where breaking from his confinement, he galloped away, and was with much difficulty recovered.

The passengers were, after many vain attempts, all safely landed ; and in a few hours the tempest abated, and a scene presented itself that might almost have effaced the remembrance of the past. The full moon climbed to the summit of the opposite hills, and shewed us the bark we had just before seen contending against the waves, now riding on the glassy surface of the river, where scarcely a breath of air was perceptible : all was now tranquil : the vociferous oaths of the boatmen gave place to the plaintive ditty, 'A sailor's life's a life of woe,' while the rude breakers, that had lashed the rocks, crept gently at their feet, and stole to hide themselves in the mid-channel.

It

It was two in the morning before we could leave a scene which had excited in us such a variety of passions and sensations. The weather on the succeeding day was as serene as possible, and shewed us, that these Severn storms are wholly unconnected with the general temperature of the atmosphere.

To those who love rural or aquatic excursions, nothing can be more delightful than to leave Bristol with the latter part of a summer afternoon's tide, sail down the Avon to King-road, and wait at the New Passage-house the return of the tide. The accommodations here are good, and the assiduity of the inhabitants has ranked this amongst the best inns in this country.

At the distance of a quarter of an hour's walk from the Passage-house, are to be seen the chapel and intrenchments at Sudbrook, a work of the Romans, where great quantities of their bricks and coins have been dug up. The antiquarian will here find many things worthy his attention.

At

At Caerwent, about three miles from hence, on the road to Newport and Usk, the servants of Mr. Lewis, of Chepstow, digging in an orchard, at the south-west angle of the old walls, in the year 1777, struck against something that resisted their tools, which, on examination, proved to be a tessellated pavement of twenty-one feet six inches in length, and eighteen feet four inches in breadth, sunk two feet below the surface of the earth. The pieces of which it is composed are almost square, and nearly the size of a common die, the colors are blue, white, yellow, and red: the two first are of stone, the other two terra cotta, and the whole is surrounded with the Greek scroll and fret-work.

It is supposed to have been part of a work of Agricola, who is known to have greatly promoted the arts of civilization, and commanded in Britain during the reign of the emperor Titus. The pleasure of seeing so curious a relic of antiquity, is much diminished by the vexation every one must feel on perceiv-

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ing that it suffers by almost all its visitors. Mr. Lewis erected a building over it, to protect it from the rude and ignorant ; but those who come purposely to examine it, are as much its enemies ; and pilfering greediness has already deprived it of nearly eight inches all round.

In the vicinity of this place are Caldecot-castle, and Matherne palace, near St. Pierre's, the seat of Thomas Lewis, esq. On the lofty brow of Wentwood forest is Strighill castle, as ancient as the Norman conquest, and once the residence of the earls of Pembroke and Strighill. Richard Strongbow was the last earl of his family who resided in it. It is now falling fast to decay.

Within a two days' excursion from the Passage-house, lie Caerleon, Usk, Abergavenny, Ragland castle, and Monmouth, all of which may be visited within that time, as the circuit is not more than seventy-six miles. The first of these places is about sixteen miles from the Passage-house, through a pleasant woody

woody country ; it is nine miles farther to Usk ; from Usk to Abergavenny eleven miles ; from thence to Monmouth, by Ragland castle, eighteen miles ; and from Monmouth, by Abbey-Tintern and Chepstow, back to the New Passage-house, or to Beachley, which is nearly the same distance, about twenty miles. At all of these places, except Caerleon, post-chaises are to be had.

Caerleon, or Kher-Leon, was a station of the Romans, and of great consideration. It was the residence of their chief commanders, and adorned with baths, palaces, and stately edifices. Some testimonies of its former magnificence remain, particularly the keep of the castle ; and parts of an aqueduct, and of the walls of the theatre, may be traced.

The bridge here over the Usk, is on the same construction as that at Newport, and part of that over the Wye, at Chepstow. It consists of wooden piles, floored with boards, which are not fixed down, but prevented from slipping, by small tenons at the ends

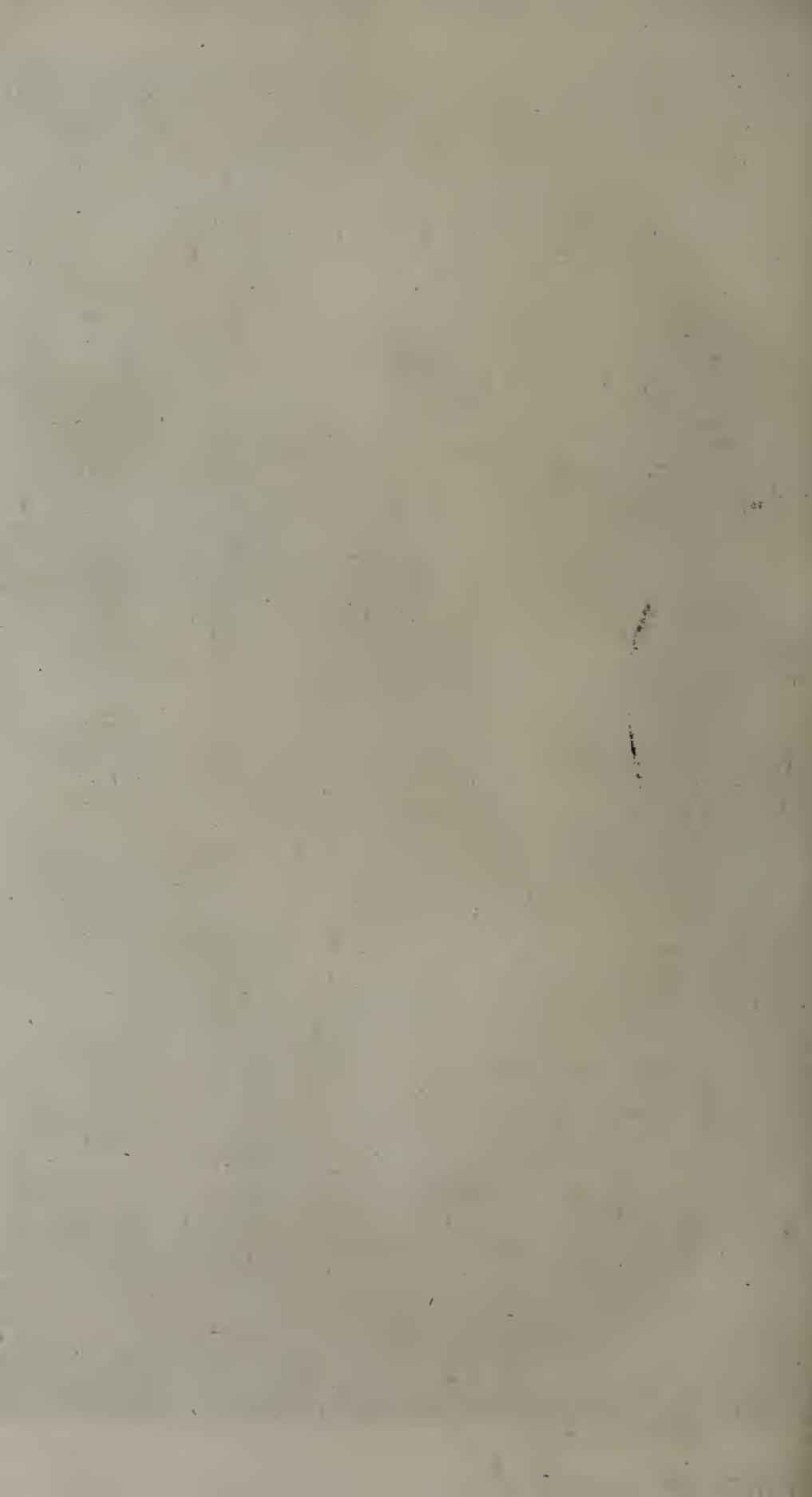
ends of each ; this precaution is necessary to prevent resistance to the tide when it rises.

Of this place and others in this route, we forbear to say more here, as it is our design to describe them in a future work, more immediately relative to Monmouthshire and Wales.

From Caerleon, a pleasant ride of nine miles, partly by the side of the Usk, brings us to a town named from the river, and as we pass an angle of rock close to the water, are presented with a full and picturesque view of the town, the castle, the bridge, and weir. Continuing under these woody rocks, we arrive at the foot of the bridge, and have a very attractive prospect before us. The road is bounded by rocks, above which is an uninterrupted range of wood ; the foreground was then strewed with large masses fallen from the heights, and which had been removed to the edge of the river ; the water formed a noble sheet ; the bridge became an object of only secondary importance, and had



VIEW OF THE BRIDGE & ENTРАNCE to the TOWN of LISS, from the Road leading to Caerleon
Drawn & Engraved by H. H. Gill.
Published by H. H. Gill, 1830.



had a good effect. It is of stone, and consists of five arches ; but the largest arch, instead of being in the centre, is that next to the town, probably to accommodate a current. Directly over the bridge is a double hill, with some wood on it ; beyond which the Blorench and Sugar-loaf mountains close the scene.

Another good view may be obtained by looking the other way from the bridge ; the accompaniments are what have been described ; but the stream assumes the form of a lake, widening in the distance. With the weir and nets placed here, great quantities of salmon are taken.

From Usk, a road leading directly to Ragland castle, without going to Abergavenny, reduces this tour to fifty instead of seventy miles ; but as the vale of Usk is celebrated for its fertility, and it has in its neighbourhood several remarkable mountains, many are induced to take the longer way, and visit Lantony abbey, which is but eleven miles farther.

From

From Usk, the road leads by the river, for about three miles, through a scene of rock and woods ; in the distance, are seen the Blorench and Sugar-loaf mountains. Passing beyond the three mile-stone, a continued wood brings us within five miles of Abergavenny, where the road branches off to Monmouth and Ragland, without returning to Usk. On the hill opposite to the seat of Mr. Jones, is an artificial castle commanding very extensive views. The vale of Usk continues between inconsiderable hills, till it reaches the foot of the Blorench.

Abergavenny appears, on our approach to it, as if situated in the deepest recesses of inaccessible mountains. All about it, is in the highest degree romantic ; and the pendant rocks, the jutting promontories, the hanging woods, and the clamorous cataracts, convey no very imperfect idea of the landscape of Switzerland.

The town takes its name from its position, which is at the confluence of the rivers Usk and Gavenny (Aber, in the Welch language,

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signifying the mouth of a river). It is surrounded by mines of various descriptions, and is of a larger size than the generality of towns in Wales. Though we do not reckon Monmouthshire a Welch county, the inhabitants of Abergavenny call themselves Welchmen, and speak the language.

Returning from Abergavenny by the way we came, for five miles, we passed Mr. Jones's house, leaving the Usk road on the right hand, and from hence had a complete view of the Holy mountain, to the south-east of Abergavenny. Beyond this we saw the termination of the Haddrell mountains, towards Herefordshire.

A few miles hence, we turned to the right for Ragland, which is conspicuously situated on the brow of a hill, of some height ; the ride to it is very picturesque. The woodbine and wild rose perfumed the air, and decorated the hedges, till we reached the castle.

Ragland castle is the property of his grace the duke of Beaufort, and is inferior in size to

to no building of the kind in South Wales, excepting Caerfelli, or Caerphilly. It contains many spacious apartments, in one of which are two figures in *alto reliefo*, but so mutilated, that all conjecture about them is vain. A subterraneous passage under the castle communicates with the church-yard, at the distance of more than a quarter of a mile. Several alterations appear to have been made in the building, as lately as the last century ; the windows in the great hall were added in the reign of Elizabeth ; but many of the stone chimney-pieces, decorated with a light freize and cornice, are of much later date.

The unfortunate Charles I. retreated hither after the battle of Naseby, in hopes of raising an army in Wales, but this scheme was frustrated ; the marquis of Worcester, the owner of the castle, was his steady friend ; but Charles was soon after made prisoner, and conveyed to Holmby : the castle stood a siege by Cromwell's forces, and was the last that surrendered to the parliament.

The country from hence to Monmouth differs little from that between Abergavenny and Ragland. Approaching Monmouth, which makes a respectable appearance, we have a view of the tower which gave birth to our glorious Henry V.

Monmouth is a clean neat town, situated at the junction of the rivers Munnow and Wye, over both which there is a stone bridge. The assizes for the county are held here. The church is a lofty building, with a light spire.

The Wye, at Monmouth, does not exhibit such romantic scenes as about Chepstow; yet those who can visit it during the spring-tides will find ample compensation for their trouble, in the pleasure of going by water from Chepstow to Monmouth, and back again. By land, there is not a single object till we reach Tintern abbey, that deserves notice.

As we declined hence towards Tintern, the road was obstructed by great quantities

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of loose stones laid on it, and rills of water crossing it at small distances. We seemed now to be penetrating a gloom aptly suited to prepare the mind for the venerable object of our curiosity ; but our contemplations were presently disturbed by the sight of a number of smelting-houses on the banks of the Wye, and much too near the abbey : clouds of thick black smoke, and an intolerable stench, issued from these buildings, disgusting to the utmost degree, and entirely destroying the landscape. Here and there we could discover a select spot that might have afforded a sketch, but we were disappointed and vexed. At the end of this road we come to a small inn, the landlord of which serves as keeper and guide to the ruins of Tintern abbey.

This beautiful ruin is situated in the lowest part of a small vale, encompassed with woods and rocks, some of which rise to the height of three hundred feet, and form the bed of the Wye : it is much to be regretted, that the hollow situation of the abbey prevents its being seen from the river.

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Drawn & Engraved by S. H. Füssli.

INSIDE VIEW of TINTERN ABBEY looking towards the East Window.

Published by G. C. & C. New Bond Street, Oct. 1, 1793.

As we approached, the wretched inhabitants of some miserable hovels presented themselves: neither the dwellings, nor the occupiers of them, were at all in harmony with the grandeur of the scene we were considering. We entered at the east gate, through a large arch, and saw all we had yet beheld of awful magnificence, surpassed by the ruins of Tintern. Nothing fabricated by human hands can be more sublime. The figure of the abbey is a cross: at the west end is a large Gothic window of exquisite beauty: the windows and the pillars that supported the roof, are in the purest style of this architecture. The walls are all standing. The length of the nave is two hundred and thirty-one feet, the breadth thirty-three. The cross aisle is one hundred and sixty feet long.

Mr. Gilpin exclaims loudly against the effect of perfect gable-ends in a ruin, and laments that a chissel is not used to reduce them to a better form; but the experiment is dangerous. In Tintern abbey there are four gable-ends, that certainly give an air of stiffness

ness to the building ; but we were much more disgusted with the stone walls that pass in oblique directions, and cut it off from the road, so that nothing but a bird's-eye view can give a correct delineation of the whole. The daws and martlets, which in great numbers have taken up their abode here, seem its proper inhabitants. On the authority of our immortal bard we may accept them as a token of the purity of the air ; and the situations chosen by the martlet, brought forcibly to our recollection his description of their œconomy :

‘ No coigne of vantage, jetting frieze, or buttrice,
But what this bird has made his pendent bed
And procreant cradle,’

MACBETH.

The man who conducted us, put into our hands the following account of the abbey, written on a scroll of parchment.

‘ This abbey, dedicated to God and St. Mary of Tintern, was founded about the year 1131, by Walter Fitz-Richard de Clare,
lord

lord of Caerwent and Monmouthshire. William earl of Pembroke and mareschal of England, married the daughter and heiress of Richard de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, and gave divers lands and privileges to the abbots and monks thereof, who are of the Cistercian order, obliging them to pray for their souls, and those of his and his wife's ancestors. Richard de Bigod, duke of Norfolk, added to these benefactions. It has been famous for the tombs and monuments of several great persons, principally the aforesaid Richard de Clare, called Strongbow, and Walter earl of Pembroke, who, in the dispute between the houses of York and Lancaster, was taken prisoner in Banbury fight, and beheaded, and buried here. The length of this abbey, from east to west, is seventy-seven yards; in breadth, from north to south, fifty-three yards. It has twenty-four pillars, and eighty-four windows.'

From Tintern abbey the road leads up a long shaded lane, and again enters the high-road from Monmouth to Chepstow.

By

By water, we pass the abbey between tremendous high rocks, winding alternately round abrupt precipices and woody promontories. In this part of the river Wye there is a sameness of scenery. Two high promontories on each side sweeping behind each other, with a third interposed, so as to close up the view, are the general accompaniments ; but though the forms are nearly the same, they are much diversified by wood and rock : in some places they stand several feet from the surface of the earth, and hang as if threatening all beneath them : distorted oaks and overgrown ash combine with the landscape in this seeming danger, and stand as if expecting every moment to be hurled to the bottom.

After running a considerable distance between such objects as these, we arrive at the beautiful peninsula of Llancot, which seems to be tied by a narrow isthmus to the hills on the Gloucestershire side of the Avon. It is nearly two miles in circumference, consisting of meadows and detached coppices.

At

At this place, Abbey Tintern, and Brochway, the fishermen make use of coracles on the water ; they are about five feet and a half long, and four broad, with a seat in the middle, and are composed of wicker curiously wove, on the outside of which is a raw hide (whence its name) pitched all over, and brought up to the gunwhales : the bottom is round, and the form oval. The mode of using them is whimsical. After throwing his net or line, the man fishes with one hand and paddles with the other : sometimes both man and boat are carried under water, but the dexterity of the country people is so great, that they rarely meet with any disaster. Sir John Hawkins, in his notes on Walton's Complete Angler, describes these vessels as called in some places a thorrocle or truckle, and in others a coble, from the Latin *corbula*, a little basket ; he says, 'It is a basket shaped like the half of a walnut-shell ; but shallower in proportion, and covered on the outside with a horse's hide : it has a bench in the middle, and will just hold one person, and is so light, that the countrymen will hang it

it on their head like a hood, and so travel, with a small paddle which serves for a stick, till they come to a river; and then they launch it, and step in: there is great difficulty in getting into one of these truckles; for the instant you touch it with your foot, it flies from you; and when you are in, the least inclination of the body oversets it. It is very diverting to see how upright a man is forced to sit in these vessels, and to mark with what state and solemnity he draws up the stone which serves for an anchor, when he would remove, and lets it down again.'

Mr. Gilpin describes a voyage made in one of these wattled barks to the island of Lundy, at the entrance of the Bristol channel, which was performed after a week's incessant labor.

At Llancot, the river and its scenery improve much: the opposite rocks rise in many places to the height of six hundred feet perpendicular. On the top of one of these mantled mountains, is one of the boundaries

ries of Piercefield. Doubling another promontory, we enter immediately under its woods.

Nothing can exceed, as to composition, the scene of rock and wood that meets the eye, as we advance towards Chepstow. The castle stands on the bank of the river, and close to the town ; its situation entirely commands both these and the bridge, and, considered only as artists consider all things, it is the happiest embellishment of this spot that could have been contrived. As a ruin, it is much admired, and occupies a large piece of ground : its construction is supposed to have been of Norman origin ; but there are some beautiful specimens of Gothic architecture to be found about it. A deep chasm divides it from the town.

The keep is now called the chapel, and is said to have been the work of a jew. A part of it has been fitted up for the reception of a family. A tower adjoining, served as a prison, during life, for colonel Martin,

who had sat as one of Charles the first's judges.

Cromwell besieged Chepstow castle ; but not being able to take it while in person here, he left colonel Ewer, with a train of artillery, seven companies of foot, and four troops of horse, to prosecute the siege. The garrison consisted of only one hundred and sixty men, who defended themselves till their provisions were gone, and then formed a scheme for escaping by night ; for which purpose, they had a boat ready under the walls ; but being suspected, one of colonel Ewer's men crossed the Wye, and set it adrift. The castle was taken on the 25th of May, 1648, by the parliament's army. Sir Nicholas Kemys, the brave defender of it, perished with about forty of his men during the siege.

The bridge at Chepstow, is, as has been said, partly on the same construction with that at Caerleon, and about seventy feet high. The tides rise here from forty to fifty feet. Stupendous as this and the still greater phenomenon

nomenon of the Severn may appear, no one who is at all acquainted with the maritime geography of this coast, can look on it as arbitrary or unaccountable. The immense body of water that rolls from St. George's channel, and the Atlantic ocean, seems ready not only to cause high tides, but to over-run our island. The power that sets limits to its fury, is infinitely more an object of our wonder and admiration, than this natural and simple secondary cause, though it must be confessed one of the grandest exertions of the laws of nature.

One end of Chepstow bridge stands in the county of Monmouth; the other in that of Gloucester, and divides the two shires; the Monmouthshire part has been re-built with brick and stone: that belonging to Gloucestershire remains in its original state. In the month of January 1738, the water rose to the astonishing height of seventy feet, and very much damaged it, carrying every thing before it: one man lost a hundred and thirty head of cattle, and the whole damage was estimated at

estimated at upwards of eight thousand pounds.

The town of Chepstow, has, within this century, risen from obscurity to opulence, and now carries on a great trade. Instead of the small vessels that navigated only the Wye, it boasts thirty or forty ships of considerable burthen.

Chepstow is situated on the side of a steep hill, declining to the water's edge, where there are convenient quays for loading and unloading, and docks for building and repairing vessels of any size. It has a parochial church, formerly the priory. The entrance to it is by a large arch of Norman architecture. Leland is of opinion, that on the decay of Caerwent, Chepstow began to flourish.

Mr. Evans, of this town, has a well which constantly ebbs and flows contrary to the tide. Camden mentions another of this description in Glamorganshire, called Sandford's well.

From

From the Gloucestershire side of the bridge, the ruins of the castle have a magnificent appearance, standing on the summit of a grey perpendicular rock, and surrounded by the luxuriant woods of Piercefield.

An artist, desirous of making a sketch from it, will, at the foot of the bridge, find a rich fore-ground to accompany it.

Beyond Chepstow, the river loses all its grandeur. The knolls on each side of it are diminutive, compared with what we saw from Chepstow to Tintern. It winds through a mountainous landscape of woody and rocky eminences, until it enters the Severn near Beachley.

Piercefield is deservedly an object of every stranger's attention ; but is to be seen only on Thursdays. It is about four miles from Chepstow by the road. The estate commences near the three mile-stone ; beyond which, a road leads through the grounds up to the house, where the names of all visitors are registered.

We

We entered the shrubbery by a wicket, at the west end of the lawn before the house, from whence we were conducted through a wilderness to the summer-house, where a scene burst suddenly on our sight, that cannot fail of enrapturing every spectator. The town, and castle, and bridge of Chepstow were beneath us ; the rocks opposite to them ranged themselves so as to appear over the town, above which, and in an intervening space, we could trace the Wye to its junction with the Severn, which exhibited an immense sheet of water, and was bounded by the Gloucestershire hills. The composition of this landscape, and the foreground, are well adapted for a picture.

From hence the path, now rising, now descending, is continued through a wood, when, from an opening, we are presented with a rock scene, but more contracted than that we have described. The path then ascends abruptly, and we continue our shady walk near a mile. From an avenue, we look down the river, and see a beautiful hanging wood. Above this,

VIEW of CHEPSTOW CASTLE and Part of the TOWN from
THE RIVER SEVERN.

Drawn & Engraved by J. Higell.



this, rise the highest rocks on the Wye. Nothing can be grander than this scene ; but we, who stood three hundred and seven feet above the level of the river, lost much of the effect such stupendous heights must produce, when viewed from their bases. From hence we gradually ascended to an eminence, commanding the most extensive views.

All that had before charmed us in detail, was now collected into one grand whole ; rocks, woods, hills, vales, lawns, and rivers, were blended in the most graceful confusion. The hills of Somersetshire, the Bristol channel, the Denny rock in the mid-channel of the Severn, and the beautiful peninsula of Llancot, were all within view, and contributed to form a picture, which can neither be conceived nor described, without detracting infinitely from its charms.

Having gazed with rapture on all that surrounded us, we reluctantly declined towards the house, which is but an indifferent building for so grand a situation. The grounds

were

were laid out at an enormous expence by the late Mr. Morris, and are receiving daily improvements from the present proprietor.

From the lawn before the house, there is an extensive, but inferior view, looking down on Chepstow and the Wye, which is here seen meandering through a romantic valley.

Quitting this delightful assemblage of all nature's prime possessions, we returned to Chepstow. The road led to the right when we had passed the bridge; we left the forest of Dean on our left, and pursuing our way through a rural and woody scene, for about three miles, arrived at Beachley Passage-house.

The house is very pleasantly situated on a rock above the Severn, from which a very well-contrived road is made for carriages down to the ferry-boats. The prospects are nearly the same as those from the other passage-houses; but improved by a farther view towards Gloucester. We found the accommodation

dation here indifferent, and could not easily get horses to proceed with.

This place is memorable for having been visited by Edward I. who, being at Austclive, invited Llewelin, the Welch potentate, then at Beachley, to come over and confer with him on the adjustment of some points of difference between them. The haughty prince refusing, the king crossed over to Beachley himself, and, by this act of condescension, so entirely subdued the pride of Llewelin, that he voluntarily did homage to him.

Crossing the Severn we landed at Aust, and found here a very good inn. From Aust we deviated about four miles for the sake of seeing Thornbury castle, the walls of which are very perfect: here is an echo which repeats seventeen times. The village is eleven miles from Bristol, and on the Gloucester road; it can boast little to detain a traveller.

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Passing the Ship at Alvingston, we have transient views of the Severn, and the mountains we crossed in our excursion in Monmouthshire, till we arrive at Aldmonsbury, a Roman station. Hedge-rows exclude all prospect till we regain Bristol, after one of the finest tours that can be made in so short a space of time. To those visitors of the Hot-wells who cannot spare even as much leisure as we devoted to this trip, it may be gratifying to know, that they may see Chepstow, Tintern-abbey, and Piercefield, and return to Bristol the same evening, if the tide happens to serve early in the morning.

Among the excursions made from the Wells, is one to Brockley-coomb. We cross the Avon at the Rownham ferry, and pass through Ashton. On the right of this village is the seat of sir John Smith, baronet, pleasantly situated at the foot of a hill, at the extremity of Leigh down.

The company at the wells have frequently an opportunity of joining in this gentleman's field



VIEW of COOK'S FOLLY and the RIVERS AVON and SEVERN from DURDHAM DOWN.

Painted by Hockam & C. Newbold, 1790.

Drawn & Engraved by J. Highfill

field sports, as he politely sends notice the evening before, when he intends to throw off his hounds.

Ashton is one of the pleasantest villages in the vicinity of Bristol, and famous for fine fruit: an attraction which draws abundance of company thither in the summer evenings. At the back of the houses in the village, alcoves are fitted up for their reception, where they may be accommodated with tea, &c.

Continuing onward, we pass through Long Ashton, and by a high road to the nine-mile stone, where on the left a path is cut through the coomb, resembling that between the Roman camps opposite Clifton, but much wider. The rocks are bold, and on both sides there is a profusion of wood: as an agreeable morning's ride, this place is worth visiting.

If time and circumstances admit of it, an excursion to the city of Wells, and the Mendip hills, is well worth the trouble, as also that

that to Glastonbury torr and rocks. The road to this place leaves Ashton on the right, and leads over Bedminster down to Dundry-hill, from whence there is an enchanting view of a valley in which stand a great number of villages: the most remarkable are Chew Magna and Stanton Drew, in the road to Wells. The first of these abounds with picturesque subjects: the stream, from which it takes its name of Chew, passes through it and joins the Avon at Keynsham. Stanton Drew is on the left, and near it are the remains of a druidical temple, called by the common people the Weddings, from a popular tradition, that a bride and her attendants were here converted into these stones. The circle formed by them is ninety paces in diameter, and each of them is about five or six feet high. Mr. Wood, in his History of Bath, has given a very full account of them.

Near this spot, where three ways meet, is an old elm, rendered infamous for having borne the bloody trophies of judge Jefferies, who, after the suppression of Monmouth's rebellion,

rebellion covered the boughs with the heads and limbs of the victims.

At Bowditch, near Chew Magna, and on a hill of a circular form, there are the remains of a large camp with treble entrenchments: it exhibits a very good prospect of the Bristol channel.

These places may, if more convenient, be visited from Bath: a road leads from Keynsham to Bristol, which avoids the hill of Dundry, but it is farther about.

Among the rides round Bristol, are French Hay, where the Duchess of Beaufort has a seat; and Penpole park and hole. Of this singular cavern, Mr. Doddrell, of Bristol, published a description, with a map and accurate dimensions. Some years since a melancholy accident happened here. The curiosity of a gentleman led him too near it, and he fell to the bottom.

Our

Our last excursion from the Hot-wells was an aquatic expedition round the Holmes: the scenery on each side of the Bristol channel is the same as that described from lord de Clifford's, till we are within sight of Cardiff and the islands. The castle-rock on the Holmes is worthy of notice; as are also the town, and the entrance of the Taafe. Having dined on the island, we embarked and sailed round both the steep and flat Holmes, and returned with the tide and a brisk gale, the same night, to Bristol Hot-wells.

— juvat ire et Dorica castra,
Desertosque videre locos, litusque relictum.

VIRG.

F I N I S.

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ERRATA.

Page 6 Line 17 for *passengers*, read *passenger's*.

II — 4 from bottom, for *wall*, read *walk*.

34 — 10 for are carried, read were carried.

60 — 9 for *Burnet*, read *Burnel*.

90 — 12 for corporations, read corporation.

96 — 21 for two arches, read three arches

120 — 15 for two miles, read three miles.

131 — 4 for *unbosomes*, read *emb*
for *B*, and *B*

137 — 1 for *Devon*, read *Dean*.

138 — 2 from bottom, for *vale*, *beneath*, read *vale beneath*,
139 15 after *called* insert a comma.

14° — 15 after called, insert a comma.
15° — 20 for true faire are read true.

151 — 20 for two fairs are, read two fairs, one, &c.
155 — 3 from bottom, for flight, read flights.

155 — 2 from bottom, for *fright*, read *fights*.
152 — 12 for *are*, read *is*.

172 — 17 for *are*, read *is*.
181 — 22 after 20, insert of *St. Vincent's rocks*.

181 = 23 after top, insert of St. Vincent's Rocks.
184 = 19 for *inns*, read *inn*

194 = 19 for *mins*, read in
314 = 13 for *freize*, read

244 = 13 for freeze, read freeze.
246 = 2 from bottom, for squat

243 = 2 from bottom, for
258 = 15 for landscape reading

258 — 15 for landscape, 10 for strip.

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